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Hun Sen Arrives in Bangkok for SNC Meeting

BK1709035290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0340 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Bangkok, Sept 17 (AFP)—Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen arrived here Monday to attend the first meeting of the newly-formed interim authority of the warring Cambodian factions, airport officials said.

The Supreme National Council (SNC), formed last week by Phnom Penh's pro-Vietnamese government and its guerrilla adversaries with six members each, is to meet later Monday in the Thai capital. The SNC is to take over Cambodia's seat at the United Nations, until now been held [as received] by the tri-partite resistance coalition backed by China and the United States. The SNC was set up a week ago at a meeting in Jakarta where Phnom Penh and the Khmer Rouge-dominated guerrilla alliance accepted a United Nations-brokered framework to end Cambodia's 12-year-old war.

Upon his arrival, Mr. Hun Sen, one of the six leaders chosen to represent his government in the SNC, said that while differences simmering over the body's chairmanship might not be resolved at its first meeting it could resolve other crucial issues.

"In my opinion this meeting could appoint the chairman of the SNC," Mr. Hun Sen said, adding: "The problem should not obstruct other issues." "We can still appoint a delegation to the U.N.," he said.

Mr. Hun Sen was referring to his earlier rejection of a call by his guerrilla opponents for a 13th seat to be created for Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk to chair the SNC. Prince Sihanouk's role in the SNC has figured prominently in maneuvering during the days leading up to the meeting due to begin at the former Cambodian Embassy here at two P.M. (0700 GMT).

Meeting Opens

BK1709081490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0804 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Bangkok, Sept 17 (AFP)—An interim authority bringing the warring Cambodian factions together under a U.N.-brokered peace plan opened its first meeting here Monday.

Leaders of the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh regime and the three resistance factions—the Marxist Khmer Rouge and the non-communist factions of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Prime Minister Son Sann—were seen arriving at the disused Cambodian Embassy here aboard a red Volvo bus. The bus was used "to make sure that everybody arrives first and that there is no preference shown toward any of the factions," a Thai official said.

The area was surrounded by uniformed Thai police and plainclothesmen, some of whom were stationed on the roof of a 16-storey office building next door. Senior officials of the Thai Foreign Ministry were also seen entering the embassy, a significant development since Bangkok has no diplomatic relations with Phnom Penh.

The embassy, closed since the Khmer Rouge seized power in Phnom Penh in 1975, was chosen as the place for the precedent-setting meeting as the factions refused to meet in each others' territory in Cambodia. [passage omitted]

The 12 seats of the SNC, evenly divided between the Phnom Penh regime and the tripartite resistance, are occupied by the top faction leaders including Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan, Prince Sihanouk's son Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Son Sann. They were all seen entering the Cambodian Embassy.

A proposal by the resistance to bring in its leader Prince Sihanouk as chairman of the SNC occupying a 13th seat has been rejected by Phnom Penh and was expected to figure prominently in the talks. But Mr. Hun sen said on his arrival in Bangkok earlier Monday that disagreement over his appointment should not block the peace talks.

Phnom Penh, PRC Officials Reportedly Meet

BK1709094890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0913 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Bangkok, Sept 17 (AFP)—Senior officials from China and Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government held talks recently in Jakarta, a Phnom Penh cabinet member said here Monday. The meeting took place between Phnom Penh's Deputy Foreign Minister Sok An and Zhang Qing, a deputy director of Asian affairs in the Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry, said minister attached to the prime minister's office Hor Nam Hong.

Mr. Hor Nam Hong, in the Thai capital as one of Phnom Penh's representatives to a newly formed interim authority of Cambodia's warring factions, gave no further details on the meeting.

China is the main ally of a resistance coalition fighting the Phnom Penh government, installed nearly 12 years ago after Vietnam invaded Cambodia to oust the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge. The guerrilla coalition groups the Marxist Khmer Rouge with non-communist followers of former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former prime minister Son Sann. [passage omitted]

Mr. Sok An and Mr. Hor Nam Hong were both in Jakarta earlier this month to attend a meeting with the Cambodian resistance factions. Mr. Zhang was in Jakarta to monitor the meeting, which resulted in a breakthrough last Monday as all four factions agreed to a U.N.-drafted plan aimed at ending the conflict and calling for the formation of a Supreme National Council (SNC). [passage omitted]

Mr. Hor Nam Hong declined to discuss the possibility of further meetings after the Jakarta talks between Mr. Zhang Qing and Mr. Sok An.

Japan

Response to Middle East Situation Continues

Kaifu Prepares for Visit

OW1209020590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0024 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 12 KYODO—The Japanese Government is making final arrangements for Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to visit five Middle East countries for 10 days in early October, Foreign Ministry sources said Wednesday. Kaifu will exchange views with Mideast leaders on the Persian Gulf crisis, and explain Japan's role in the international effort to force Iraq to pull out of Kuwait, the sources said.

After attending the United Nations session on the rights of children in New York on September 29-30, the prime minister is tentatively scheduled to fly to Cairo on October 1. From Egypt, he will travel to Jordan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Oman.

Kaifu had planned to visit the five countries in mid-August, but the trip was postponed following Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait. Officials explained at the time that the visit was postponed to allow Kaifu to coordinate Japan's response to the crisis.

Kaifu dispatched Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama to the countries concerned at the end of August to gather information on their needs.

Government sources said that Kaifu is likely to offer 2 billion dollars in emergency aid to Turkey, Egypt, and Jordan during his trip. Japan is also considering establishing a 1,000-member team of medical and technical experts to support United Nations peacekeeping efforts, they said. It is unclear whether the team would be activated in situations like the Gulf crisis, where UN peacekeeping forces are not involved.

Kaifu announced earlier a 1 billion dollar donation for support of the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf, and 22 million dollars to assist the repatriation of Asian and other refugees streaming out of Iraq.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto has said that Japan plans to unveil the second phase of its Persian Gulf contribution program by the end of September.

Bush 'Grateful' for New Aid

OW1509050390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0307 GMT 15 Sep 90

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, Sept. 14 KYODO—President George Bush said Friday the United States was "grateful" to Japan for a new commitment of 3 billion dollars to the Persian Gulf campaign against Iraq.

Despite a congressional outcry over Japan's limited contribution to the Persian Gulf effort, Bush opened a White House press conference with praise for the new Japanese contribution. "I gave my personal thanks to Prime Minister (Toshiki) Kaifu last night when he called me to tell me about this news," he told reporters. "And we are grateful for Japan's significant contribution."

The Japanese Government announced on Friday it would provide an extra 1 billion dollars for the multinational forces in the Gulf, and 2 billion dollars to front-line countries like Egypt, Turkey and Jordan.

The new commitment is in addition to 1 billion dollars that Japan proposed on August 30.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady visited Tokyo a week ago to solicit further allied financial support for the Middle East effort. He issued a special statement, welcoming Japan's new contribution. "We are pleased that the Government of Japan has come forward with a significant contribution to the multinational effort to counter the effect of Iraqi aggression in Kuwait," Brady said. "This contribution will help address the immediate needs of the front-line states and assist in the defense of Saudi Arabia."

On Capitol Hill, Sen. John McCain, the Arizona Republican who sought 8 billion dollars in Japanese financial support, said he was "very pleased" with the new Japanese aid package, calling it "an excellent step forward by Japan." "The announcement is a clear message that Japan has become a world leader, and accepts the responsibilities of a great state," he said. He called on West Germany to "take heed of Japan's example of leadership in the Persian Gulf crisis." "I only regret that the Japanese Government did not take this action earlier, which would have prevented criticism of Japanese indecision from becoming so widespread in the U.S.," McCain said.

A senior U.S. official shared the senator's regret over the delay in additional Japanese contributions, saying Japan could have avoided a burst of criticism here if it had acted promptly. "From the very beginning, we have given political advice to the Japanese Government that they should announce it as soon as possible," the official said, speaking on condition he not be named. He said the United States asked Japan as early as August 30 not to delay in taking further action to back the multinational forces and the front-line Gulf states.

But the Japanese Govenrment moved slowly, allowing the Congress and the American public sentiment against Japan to build up.

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed an amendment to a 283 billion [dollar] defense authorization bill, urging a withdrawal of its 5,000 troops from Japan. The vote was 370-53. The amendment was sponsored by Rep. David Bonior, a Democrat from the auto-producing state of Michigan. The senior U.S. official said, "Unfortunately, the general view is that they (legislators) think Japan only did this" because of the Bonior amendment. "We recommended to Japan many, many times" that Japan follow up its earlier proposal of 1 billion dollars, the U.S. official said, "It's regrettable that it took them (the Japanese) so long."

Rep. Pat Schroeder, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a frequent critic of Japan, said, "I congratulate the Japanese on this decision." But she cautioned, "I will be watching this Japanese commitment closely to ensure that it is as good as it sounds." Schroeder, a Colorado Democrat, expressed frustration with West Germany's reluctance to increase contributions. "Maybe it is time to pass some strong legislation to force the Germans to help in the Middle East," she said.

In an interview with Cable News Network (CNN), Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu defended Japan's Gulf crisis response. "We are vigorously conducting such (peace-restoring) efforts because it is such an important thing to ensure peace and stability in the region which has two-thirds of the world's oil reserves, and which is of vital significance to the future prosperity of the world economy," Kaifu said.

A Japanese Embassy spokesman said Ambassador Ryohei Murata is also making American TV appearances to address the criticism of the Japanese contributions.

Raid on Embassies Condemned

OW1709125190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1124 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 17 KYODO—Japan "strongly condemns" Iraq's raiding of four Western diplomatic missions and its temporary abduction of a French diplomat in Kuwait last Friday, a top Foreign Ministry official said Monday. "This act is an unequivocal violation of international law and Japan strongly condemns it," said the top official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity.

The official called on Iraq to heed the chorus of international criticism directed against it as demonstrated by the unanimous vote in the United Nations Security Council last Sunday condemning Baghdad's storming of the Belgian, Canadian, and Dutch diplomatic compounds and the French Embassy residence.

Asked about the prospect of Japan's dispatching a special envoy to Baghdad to press for the release of Japanese nationals detained against their will, the official said the Foreign Ministry considers it "inappropriate under the present circumstances." "We are not going to put ourselves in a position of pleading with the Iraqis to resolve the foreign nationals problem," he said. "They are the ones who are taking unlawful and wrongful actions, which are without precedent."

The official said if a special envoy were ever to be sent, precautions would have to be taken to ensure that the visit would not turn out to be a replay of the controversial solo mission to Baghdad by Austrian President Kurt Waldheim in late August. Waldheim was hailed in Austria for his success in gaining the release of 95 Austrians, but widely criticized outside his country for breaking international ranks against Iraq.

The official said Japan would prefer to act in tandem with its Western allies in a concerted effort to achieve the hostages' release by coercing Baghdad to abide by the relevant resolutions passed in the U.N.

On reports that a House of Councillors delegation might go to Baghdad, the official said the Foreign Ministry would not necessarily be opposed as long as the intention of the parliamentarians is to urge the Iraqis to comply with the U.N. resolutions.

Diet Members Urge More Aid

OW1109151790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1347 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 11 KYODO—The Parliamentarians League for Japan-Arab Friendship urged the government Tuesday to organize private-sector assistance for refugees fleeing from Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

Donations from the Japanese business community and private groups should be solicited for refugees streaming into Jordan, the league said in a statement. Japan has so far pledged 22 million dollars to help repatriate tens of thousands of refugees flooding into makeshift camps in the Jordanian desert.

The league, formed by parliamentarians belonging to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and headed by former Construction Minister Yoshiaki Kibe, endorsed measures taken by the government in condemning Iraq's August 2 invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait.

Multinational Forces Aid Viewed

OW1309154890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1533 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 13 (KYODO)—Japan is considering providing more financial assistance to the U.S.-led multinational forces deployed in the Persian Gulf, a top Foreign Ministry official said Thursday. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not say, however, how much Japan is contemplating to provide on top of the 1 billion dollars it has already pledged.

The government of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is working on a second package of measures to help restore peace and stability in the Gulf region and is expected to announce it early next week, government sources said. The new package is chiefly designed to specify the substantial amount of Japan's economic assistance to Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey, whose economies have been hard hit by the United Nations-approved economic sanctions against Iraq.

The initial package, which Kaifu announced August 29, says Japan will provide transportation services, nonmilitary supplies and medical services to the multinational forces, as well as economic assistance to the so-called "frontline" countries and to refugees streaming out of Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

The top official said Japan needs to share more of the burden of maintaining the multinational forces in the Gulf, pointing to the importance of Japan's relations with the United States, which has already sent about 100,000 troops to the Gulf area.

The deployment of the forces has intensified the U.S. budget deficit, while Japan is under growing criticism from the United States for doing little to help America, the official said.

Japan, which relies on the Middle East for about 70 percent of its oil, benefits from the deployment of the U.S.-led multinational force, he said.

The Japanese Government has so far pledged 1 billion dollars to support the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf, and 22 million dollars to assist the repatriation of Asian and other refugees. Japan also needs to seriously consider sharing all costs of maintaining U.S. troops stationed in Japan, the top official said. The U.S. House of Representatives adopted an amendment Wednesday calling on Japan to pay all such costs.

Kaifu told reporters Thursday that Japan will make efforts to increase its share of the cost of maintaining U.S. troops in Japan.

Meanwhile, Tomoharu Yada, vice minister of defense, told a news conference the same day that Japan must make a final decision on the matter as soon as possible.

One high-level government official said the cabinet will consult the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on a Kaifu-proposed United Nations peace cooperation law that would allow Japan to send noncombat Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel abroad in the event of an international crisis.

The official was responding to a comment by a high LDP official who accused the government of avoiding the controversial issue of revising the SDF law, which bans the sending abroad of SDF personnel, even noncombatants such as doctors and engineers.

Supplemental Budget Needed

OW1409115990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0633 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 14 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Friday a supplementary budget will be needed to raise part of the extra assistance the government is pledging to help resolve the crisis in the Persian Gulf. He said the new budget is needed to raise the extra 1 billion dollars being provided to the multinational forces in the Gulf. The money is in addition to 1 billion dollars pledged to the forces earlier. The other 2 billion dollars in new assistance to the region announced Friday does not require immediate budgetary appropriations.

Hashimoto said the emergency fund in the present budget for fiscal 1990, which ends next March, is not big enough to provide the extra 1 billion dollars for the multinational force. "If we intend to earmark the money from the budget for the current fiscal year, a supplement will be inevitable," he said at a press conference after the cabinet meeting that endorsed the additional financial assistance to help settle the six-week crisis.

Hashimoto refused to comment on when work will start to compile the supplementary budget, saying there are still some unclear factors, including the timing of actually spending the money and also of holding an extraordinary Diet session to discuss the matter.

Asked about the sources for the funds, Hashimoto said, "The government should not issue government bonds to support the multilateral forces, since that would make the bonds something like war loans." He added that he is not considering issuing deficit-financing bonds. "As the additional outlay is to be made at a time when the government cannot expect any sharp increase in tax revenues, I will ask government ministries and agencies to review and cut back on their expenditures," he said.

Meanwhile, International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto said in a separate press conference that a decision on how the money is to be spent will be taken based on requests from those concerned. "There is no way for us to shoulder the costs until some requests are actually made," he said. He also said, "We cannot expect the multinational forces to consult with Japan before taking any military actions." But he said he believes the danger that a shooting war will break out is receding.

Aid To Come From ODA Funds

OW1409135690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1308 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 14 KYODO—Japan's pledged 2 billion dollars in economic assistance to financially-strapped Middle Eastern countries affected by the Persian Gulf crisis may be diverted from funds that would otherwise have gone elsewhere, a Foreign Ministry spokesman indicated Friday.

"This money is in the category of official development assistance (ODA)—that much is definite," said spokesman Taizo Watanabe in a meeting with foreign correspondents. But whether this new and additional ODA money will bite into the money we are scheduled to give to other nations or not, that is not decided yet," he said. "There could be a little bit of adjustment."

Watanabe said Japan's hope is to be able to make up for any diversion of funds through an overall expansion of its aid program in the future. "But it all depends on how much disbursement is required in one (fiscal) year," he said.

Foreign Ministry officials said that the 600 million dollars in emergency commodity loans committed to Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey will be disbursed out of the budget for the current fiscal year, ending in March. But the government has yet to decide whether the remaining 1.4 billion dollars in grants, loans, and technical cooperation—destined for the three Mideast countries and possibly others—is to come out of the current budget or the fiscal 1992 budget. The likelihood of a cutback of funds to Japanese ODA beneficiaries outside the Middle East region would be greatest if the 1.4 billion dollars is taken out of the fiscal 1991 budget, officials said.

Nakayama on Public Relations

OW1409171890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1454 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 14 KYODO—After receiving some bad press overseas for its handling of the Gulf crisis the Japanese Government plans to make use of the international media to help solve its image problems.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told the cabinet at its meeting Friday that Japan would use the U.S.-based Cable News Network (CNN) to tell the world of its newly unveiled 3 billion dollar aid package for Mideast countries and multilateral forces in the Gulf. As soon as the meeting was over, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu hustled into an interview session with the network, which enjoys a worldwide audience.

More media efforts will be necessary, Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto told reporters later in the day.

In recent weeks Japan has been criticized for doing too little too late, with some of the most vehement criticism coming from U.S. legislators. Japan's contribution is "contemptible tokenism," said one particularly irate senator earlier this week.

At the time, Japan had made public only the first stage of its plan, which included 1 billion dollars for U.S.-led multinational forces, and a pledge of an unspecified amount of aid to Mideast countries hard hit by economic sanctions against Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

While Japan's formal stance is that the showering of attention from the U.S. Congress represents America's "strong interest" in Japan, some officials also attribute the congressional harsh words to a lack of understanding of Japanese policy. Japan jumped onboard with economic sanctions even before the United Nations gave its stamp of approval, they point out. Its announcement of 1 billion dollars to multinational forces in the Middle East preceded pledges by Gulf nations, though Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait are offering a total of 12 billion dollars. Japan's pledge of 2 billion dollars in economic aid to Egypt, Jordan and Turkey came one week after a European Community pledge of an identical sum.

The EC has said the decision to fund U.S. forces will be left to individual member states, some of which are already contributing naval ships.

In an effort to make sure Japan's policies are understood, the Foreign Ministry said it had made a special effort to ensure that Friday's announcement of its latest contribution reached embassies abroad for immediate distribution. The government has also instructed embassies to seek as many media opportunities as possible to explain Japan's policies on the Gulf crisis.

An aide to Prime Minister Kaifu said that the problem is rooted in Japan's particular political process, in which decisions are often made only after lengthy discussions among the many interested parties. He was echoed by a Mideast diplomat: "The Japanese are not reluctant to participate, they have their own way of doing things and they like to take time," he said. "They like to be convinced, and they can be," he said, adding that he hoped the 2 billion dollars in aid was "just a beginning."

Aid Through 'Negative List'

OW1509100290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0916 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 15 KYODO—The Japanese Government plans to extend emergency aid to Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey based on a "negative list" of most kinds of goods, government sources said Saturday.

The plan applies to 600 million dollars worth of commodity aid, which is part of Japan's 2 billion dollar assistance to the "frontline" states hard hit by the Middle East crisis. Under the negative list formula, the three nations could get virtually all the items they want. Exceptions are items such as weapons, drugs, and liquors, which are banned from the list.

Also the government is preparing to make the commodity loans to the three nations retrospective from August, as formalities are expected to delay the start of offering aid until October or November, the sources said.

Doi Against Sending SDF

OW1309152090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1412 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 13 (KYODO)—The head of Japan's No. 1 opposition party, Takako Doi, on Thursday denounced moves among government and ruling party leaders toward dispatching Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel overseas as part of Japan's contribution to international efforts to restore peace in the Persian Gulf region.

Doi, chairwoman of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), said her party needs to propose its own plan for Japan's role in settling the Gulf crisis, which followed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2. Doi did not go into details on the JSP plan, urging party members to study it.

Doi, speaking at a meeting of JSP members in the House of Representatives, accused the government of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of attempting to revise the war-renouncing constitution, which bans the country from using force to settle international disputes. She said some government and LDP leaders harbor blatant intentions of capitalizing on the Middle East crisis to revise laws so the country can send SDF personnel abroad.

Doi said she cannot tolerate such moves and that she wonders how Asian people are watching the Japanese, pointing out that Japan inflicted damage on China, the Korean peninsula, and many other parts of Asia before and during World War II.

The opposition leader, however, endorsed government efforts to send nonmilitary personnel and funds to help foreign refugees trapped in Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait, and step up support for countries affected by the United Nations-approved economic sanctions against Iraq. The Japanese Government has so far pledged 1 billion dollars in logistical support for the U.S.-led multinational forces deployed in the Gulf, in addition to 22 million dollars to help foreign refugees streaming out of Iraq and Kuwait.

Planes Sent to Gulf To Transport Asian Refugees

OW1409172390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1501 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 14 KYODO—Japan Airlines (JAL) and All Nippon Airways (ANA) on Friday decided to send passenger planes to Jordan between September 18 and 19 as part of Japan's efforts to assist the U.N.-led refugee relief activities in the Persian Gulf area, JAL and ANA officials said. The officials said the planes will transport Asian refugees stranded in Jordan back to their home countries.

Twelve million dollars provided by Japan to help refugees streaming out of Iraq and Kuwait will be used to pay for the aircraft charters, they said.

The Foreign Ministry estimates that the number of Asian refugees in Jordan has reached about 70,000, including 24,000 from Bangladesh, 11,000 from the Philippines, and 10,000 from Pakistan.

A top government official also said on Friday that Japan will charter Saudi Arabian aircraft to carry supplies to the U.S.-led multinational military forces in the Gulf area. The government had already decided on a plan to charter U.S. civilian cargo aircraft to transport supplies from the United States to Saudi Arabia.

20 Women, Children From Kuwait Arrive in London

Arrive 16 Sep

OW1509130390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1241 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 15 KYODO—Twenty Japanese women and children who remained in Kuwait following Iraq's invasion of the oil-rich kingdom arrived in London via Baghdad on Saturday, according to a report from the Japanese Embassy in London to the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo. They were on an Iraqi jet chartered by the United States which also carried about 350 U.S. citizens and some 50 British, Canadian, Australian and other nationals, the ministry said.

It said the 20 women and children were among the 30 Japanese—two men, nine women and 19 children—who had stayed in Kuwait voluntarily after the Japanese Embassy there made arrangement to evacuate Japanese residents to Baghdad on August 22 and 23. Iraq has permitted Western bloc women and children to leave the country, but is still holding many men as hostages at military bases and industrial complexes.

More on Return From Kuwait

OW1609143990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1307 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 16 KYODO—A Japanese woman and her three children who remained in Kuwait following Iraq's invasion of the country returned here Sunday.

Hiroko Nakayama, 39, who married a Kuwaiti man 10 years ago, and her children arrived at Narita Airport on a commercial flight from London. Nakayama's husband is still in Kuwait. She told reporters she felt her family was in danger because of frequent firefights in Kuwait City. Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait have stepped up their questioning of residents, and food shortages are worsening, she said.

Nakayama and her children arrived in London on Saturday via Baghdad on an Iraqi jet chartered by the United States with 16 other Japanese women and children, about 350 U.S. citizens and some 50 British, Canadian, Australian and other nationals.

The Japanese Embassy in London said the 20 Japanese were among the 30 Japanese—two men, nine women and 19 children—who had stayed in Kuwait voluntarily after the embassy there made arrangements to evacuate Japanese residents to Baghdad on August 22 and 23.

Nakayama said she and her family had to stay inside their house in Kuwait every day to avoid being hit by stray bullets.

First Medical Team Ready for Gulf Mission

OW1709101690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0708 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 17 KYODO—Japan's first medical team will leave Tuesday for Saudi Arabia to study ways to help refugees stranded in the Persian Gulf states as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the government said Monday. The 17-member team will include five doctors, two nurses and two medical helpers, five coordinators, and three Foreign Ministry officials, government officials said.

The dispatch of the medical team, headed by Dr. Shigeyoshi Teramoto at the National Nagasaki Central Hospital in Nagasaki, forms part of Japan's pledged contributions to international efforts to ease the Gulf crisis. Thousands of foreign nationals, including many Asians, reportedly remain at refugee camps in Saudi Arabia after fleeing from Iraq and Kuwait.

The medical team will inspect hospitals in Riyadh and other major cities in Saudi Arabia to determine the best way for Japanese doctors to help in the relief work for the refugees, the officials said. The doctors will give medical treatment if such need arises during the inspection, the officials said.

The list of members of the advance medical team had been withheld in consideration of opposition raised to its dispatch by some staff unions of medical institutions involved.

After two doctors at the Tokyo University Hospital were picked as members of the medical team, the union of the faculty staff at Tokyo University issued a statement criticizing the move.

Union Secretary General Toshiaki Sasaki said sending doctors to the Middle East will lead to Japanese medical personnel joining U.S.-led multinational military forces assembled in the region to fight Iraq, not to helping refugees as originally intended. The Union of the National Hospitals' Medical Center, which is sending two nonunion doctors to the Persian Gulf, protested Monday that the government may call for more doctors for such purposes. The union said the government should try to help solve the Middle East crisis by such measures as sending special envoys to the troubled region. Doctors are now in dire shortage at home, it said.

The government officials said the 17 members of the medical team volunteered of their own free will.

Kaifu Says Gulf Medical Team 'Front Line'

OW1709162090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu offered encouragement Monday to a special medical team due to leave shortly for the Persian Gulf as Japan's contribution to the peace effort in the region.

Kaifu entrusted the 17-member team of medical experts and government officials with finding a suitable role for some 100 doctors and nurses Japan has pledged to dispatch to the region. "You are the front line in rendering assistance to the needy under very extreme conditions," he told the group during their visit to his official residence.

The team is to leave for Saudi Arabia on Tuesday to study ways to help refugees stranded in the Persian Gulf states as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The members are also charged with assisting the injured in case of war. The first group includes five doctors, four nurses, five coordinators, and three Foreign Ministry officials.

Hidenobu Kozuma, 33, said he volunteered for the job because as a nurse he hopes to serve those who are most in need. "If someone is sick, it is irrelevant what their nationality or religion is," said Kozuma, an employee of Osaka's Aino Hospital.

Team leader Shigeyoshi Teramoto, 56, of the National Nagasaki Central Hospital, said that medicine is the most nonviolent way Japan can contribute to resolving the crisis.

Major Oil Wholesalers Raise Petroleum Prices

OW1709013590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0029 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 17 KYODO—Japan's major oil wholesalers raised the price of gasoline, kerosene, and other petroleum products by an average 8 yen per liter on Monday. The move will push up the retail price of gasoline to a national average of about 130 yen per liter, while kerosene will rise to around 960 yen per 18 liters from present 813 yen. The 8 yen hike is the largest since the so-called second "oil shock" in late 1978, when political turmoil in Iran caused crude oil prices to soar above 30 dollars per barrel.

The oil wholesalers imposing the rise include Mobile Sekiyu K.K. and Mitsubishi Oil Co. Industry officials blamed the big increase on higher crude oil prices resulting from the Iraqi invasion and annexation of oil-rich Kuwait in early August.

Import prices of crude oil jumped by 7 to 8 dollars per barrel in August due to the Middle East crisis compared with around 18 dollars in February, they said. This represented a rise to 25 yen per liter compared with 17.20 yen.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry is planning to step up its monitoring of oil prices as demand rises with the onset of cooler weather.

Abe Cancels USSR Visit for 'Health Reasons'

OW1709102090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0933 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 17 KYODO—Former secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Shintaro Abe on Monday canceled his planned visit to the Soviet Union September 20 to 25 for health reasons, LDP officials said. He was scheduled to make a trip to the Soviet Union to attend the opening ceremony for a Japanese cultural week in Moscow. Abe is currently being treated at the Juntendo University Hospital in Tokyo, the officials said.

Kaifu Greets First Soviet Youth Delegation

OW1109151390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1151 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu welcomed to his official residence Tuesday the first Soviet youth group to visit Japan on a program to expand cultural relations. In a brief ceremony, Kaifu told the 172-member group that they are the "frontline" in deepening mutual understanding between the two countries.

Nikolay Dolgushin, leader of the group, said the 12-day tour is symbolic of the new level of person-to-person exchange between the two neighbors. "I think that this will lead to more active exchanges between the governments," said Dolgushin, 40, a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee.

"Japan-Soviet Contact '90," is being arranged as part of a ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) program to undertake a "balanced expansion" of relations. The eight-point program of greater cultural and economic ties was first proposed by former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe during a visit to the Soviet Union in January. It has since become de facto government policy.

Japan's relations with the Soviet Union have warmed considerably since the decline of the Cold War, but the two countries are still at odds over four Soviet-held small islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

After touring Japan's parliament and meeting with Abe and LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, the friendship mission is to split into five groups specializing in economics, education, welfare, agriculture and fisheries. The participants will depart for home by ship from Niigata on September 21. The LDP has invited 1,000 youths to visit Japan over the next three years.

Mission To Recover WWII Remains on Sakhalin

OW1709134890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0946 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Niigata, Sept. 17 KYODO—A 10-member delegation left here Monday for Sakhalin to collect the remains of former Japanese soldiers killed in former Japanese territory in the Soviet Far East island during World War II. Three members of a national organization of relatives of the war dead and representatives of a war veterans group were among the members of the mission which was led by a Health and Welfare Ministry official. The government-sponsored mission was the first of its kind sent to what is now Soviet territory in the 45 years since the war ended on August 15, 1945.

After arriving in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk on Tuesday via Khabarovsk on an Aeroflot flight, the mission will visit Smirnykh in central Sakhalin the following day to receive the remains of former Japanese soldiers. The Japanese will proceed the next day to nearby Pobedino, the scene of the fiercest of the battles between the then Japanese and Soviet armies, for collection of 20 to 24 more bodies.

After cremating the remains of the former Japanese war dead and observing a memorial service for them, the mission will return to Niigata airport on an Aeroflot flight next Monday.

An estimated 390,000 Japanese nationals lived in Sakhalin and 19,000 former Imperial Army and Navy soldiers were stationed there when the Soviets joined the offensive toward the close of the Pacific War, according to the Health and Welfare Ministry. Some 500 Japanese soldiers were killed in Sakhalin in the Russo-Japanese battles fought between August 9-17. About 200 Japanese died in the battle of Pobedino, the war veterans' group said.

The Japanese mission to Sakhalin, originally scheduled for late July through early August, was postponed because of the danger from possible mines and unexploded bombs left at the sites the mission proposes to visit.

Soviet Diplomats Deny Pyongyang Nuclear Ability

OW1409172490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1459 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 14 KYODO—The Soviet Union harbors no suspicion that North Korea has developed or is close to achieving a nuclear weapons capability, Soviet diplomatic sources here said Friday.

"They have not yet produced nuclear weapons and it is our impression that they do not have the technical capability to do so," said one Soviet diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. We have had very close relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) for decades now, so our leadership is well informed on the situation and capabilities in that country," he said.

The Soviet diplomats said that the issue was discussed during the September 5-6 talks in Tokyo between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Japanese counterpart Taro Nakayama.

"But there was a divergence of views on which side of the Korean peninsula the nuclear threat comes from," said one diplomat. He said the Japanese side expressed anxiety that, because Pyongyang has not agreed to accept the nuclear safeguard regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it may aspire to a nuclear weapons capability. "But in the Soviet view, the true nuclear threat comes not from the north but from the south, where U.S. Forces are deployed along with nuclear weapons," he said.

Moscow has nevertheless been urging Pyongyang to comply with its IAEA obligations and has reportedly withheld cooperation on the construction of a four-reactor nuclear power plant pending such an agreement.

Pyongyang has been engaging in talks with the IAEA on the signing of an agreement for on-site inspections and other mandatory safeguards in line with its obligations as a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which it joined in 1985. But it continues to set the U.S. removal of its "nuclear threat" from South Korea as a precondition. The U.S. Government neither confirms nor denies the presence of nuclear weapons there as part of its policy of nuclear deterrence.

Pentagon officials have said North Korea is believed to be building a facility to separate plutonium from spent nuclear fuel, a key process in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

North Korea, meanwhile, has insisted that its nuclear program is dedicated solely to the utilization of atomic energies for peaceful purposes.

U.S. Aircraft Landing at Shimojijima Protested

OW1409134090 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 14 Sep 90 Morning Edition p 31

[Text] Irabu—U.S. military aircraft made refueling stops at Shimojijima Airport in Irabu Town for two straight days on 12 and 13 September. Seven airplanes landed at the airport on the morning of 12 September and six on the morning of 13 September. These planes from Futenma Marine Air Station were bound for the Philippines.

These U.S. aircraft made calls during training hours of civilian jetliners over the airport on 12 and 13 September. They used the airport as if it was their own relay station, servicing engines and doing other maintenance work after refueling. The Prefectural Airport Management Office earlier requested the U.S. side to stop using the airport, and Miyako local trade union organizations held a protest rally on 12 September. But the U.S. side is ignoring all these calls. This is the ninth time that the U.S. military aircraft used the Shimojijima Airport this year, bringing a total of 45 aircraft there.

A C-130 airtanker and six CH-46 helicopters came to the airport on 12 September. They stayed there from 0930 to 1200 for refueling but one of them returned to Futenma. Miyako local trade union groups held a protest gathering at a site adjoining the airport on that day.

On 13 September, five CH-53 helicopters made refueling stops from shortly after 0900 to 1300. Two of them had repair work done on their rotors and other parts of engines for about an hour.

At present there are three civilian jetplanes—two B-747's and a DC-10 for training programs at the airport. The U.S. military aircraft came into and left the airport while civilian airplane training was in brief pauses on 12 and 13 September.

Shimojijima Airport Management Office of the prefectural government was notified of the U.S. Forces' plan to use the airport on 10 September. Upon receiving the notification, the office's Airport Division asked the Foreign Ministry "to suspend the plan, noting that the airport is a Class 3 civilian airport and hence its use is undesirable from the management viewpoint." The request has not been complied with.

Okinawans Measure Kadena Noise for Lawsuit

OW1309135990 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 13 Sep 90 Evening Edition p 7

[Text] Chatan-cho—Representative of three parties to a lawsuit filed in connection with aircraft noises from Kadena Air Base began a two-day on-site inspection at Chatan-cho and Kadena-cho on 13 September. The three parties to the suit are a plaintiff, a defendant, which is the government, and Naha District Court.

This is the second on-site inspection conducted by the three parties since the first in November 1986. On the first day of this inspection, noise level was measured at four places proposed by the government side. The four were the house of Mr. Choji Kizuka at 614-11 Kuwae, Chatan-cho; Kamise Area School Facility (Kamise Public Hall) at 696 Kamisedo, Chatan-cho; the house of Mr. Tsunehiko Higa at 373-122 Mizukama, Kadena-cho; and Kadena Town-operated Yara Kindergarten at 9 Yara, Kadena-cho.

Concessions Made in Amorphous Metal Talks

OW1309151190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1446 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 13 (KYODO)—In a last-ditch effort to head off possible U.S. retaliation, the government has unofficially presented concessionary proposals on amorphous metal trade, government sources said Thursday.

The sources said the government plan, just ahead of the Saturday deadline in the talks, includes the purchase of 15,000 transformers made with U.S amorphous metal, valued at an estimated 2.25 billion yen, over the next three years by Japanese electric utilities for field tests of the amorphous alloy-core electric transformers.

The action is apparently intended to break an impasse in the six-month bilateral negotiations, whose failure might spur the U.S. Government to seek retaliatory measures under Provision 301 of the 1974 U.S. Trade Act.

The trade dispute emerged after a major U.S. amorphous metal supplier, Allied-Signal Inc., filed a petition with the U.S. Trade Representative's office in early March, accusing Japan of blocking the company's access to the market. The New Jersey-based company suspended the complaint later at the request of the government, pending a 150-day negotiation period.

In addition to the purchase by utilities, the government proposal calls on Japanese steelmakers to limit their use of domestically developed metals and boost introduction of amorphous metal produced by Allied-Signal. However, Japan has rejected Allied's demand for an extension of its Japanese patent.

Earlier in the day, International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto, on his return from a 10-day tour of Europe and Canada, said Tokyo has no intention of accepting the U.S. request for extension of the patent. "Even if the rejection leads to the breakdown of the bilateral talks, that's that," he said. "We cannot ignore the Japanese law" prohibiting such an extension, he said.

Stance on Farm Subsidies at APEC Talks Viewed

OW1209045590 Tokyo KYODO in English 2311 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Vancouver, Canada, Sept. 11 KYODO—Canada broke rank with the United States at an Asia-Pacific trade ministers' meeting here Tuesday, abandoning "global quotas" on textiles and clothing.

Canadian International Trade Minister John Crosbie dropped the bombshell as he officially opened a two-day session of the Asia- Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum on the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Talks.

The U.S., now the sole advocate of "global quotas" as the world's largest textile importer, said it would be prepared to discuss issues surrounding a global textile trade liberalization proposal patterned after the current Multifiber Arrangement (MFA). But U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills stopped short of dropping a "global quotas" approach altogether, citing legislation for domestic textile industry protection, a conference source said.

The APEC groups the U.S., Japan, Canada, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Brunei.

In agriculture, another delegate said, Japan and South Korea were the only APEC countries which were at odds with the remaining 10 countries over domestic subsidies and import restrictions. A senior Japanese official said, however, that International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto appeared to embrace New Zealand's suggestion that the APEC ministerial meeting endorse the so-called de Zeeuw proposal for an early reduction of export subsidies. The proposal has been made by Aart de Zeeuw, chairman of the Agricultural Negotiating Group under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Hilis told reporters after the Tuesday morning session that the U.S. continues to insist on "fundamental reform in agriculture" despite the protracted farm trade liberalization talks.

Crosbie opened the meeting at a hotel here, telling the audience, "We have gathered together to seek ways to move key issues forward significantly toward a balanced and comprehensive trade package in the final Uruguay Round ministerial meeting in early December in Brussels. "What happens over the next 90 days on the road to Brussels will have an enormous impact on each of our economies, and on what and how much we trade with each other, as well as with the rest of the world,"he said. Crosbie also said, "The cost of failure is very great: lower growth, more protectionism, less confidence in the future, and increased unilateral action."

Rifidah Aziz, trade and industry minister of Malaysia, said at the meeting that his country is ready to reduce tariffs on an additional 600 products to help ensure the success of the Uruguay Round.

In the course of the Tuesday morning session, Aziz and other Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN) ministers said ASEAN is opposed to a change in GATT-sanctioned import curbs on balance of payments grounds. "We need further flexibility in light of the Persian Gulf crisis," a delegate quoted the ASEAN ministers as telling the meeting.

Muto said Japan is considering the elimination of tariffs on selected tropical products for the purpose of a sucessful GATT round.

Australia and New Zealand also made separate tariff reduction proposals as part of their market-opening measures, delegates said.

The 12-nation European Community (EC), which is not an APEC member, came under fire for allegedly delaying progress in GATT talks on textiles and clothing by calling for a linkage between an international agreement with tighter GATT rules and a verification of MFA compliance by developing countries.

Delegates also said Japan and ASEAN countries accused the EC and the U.S. of excessively resorting to antidumping action. The U.S. countered that antidumping measures should be tightened to bar foreign firms from evading its laws.

New Zealand's chief delegate Colin Moyle, leading off the debate on agricultural trade, called on other APEC member countries to keep to the GATT-imposed

October 1 and 15 deadlines for lists of domestic support, import curbs and export subsidies, and farm trade liberalization proposals.

Muto led off the debates on both trade-related investment measures and trade-related intellectual property.

An unidentified minister from a developed country called on ASEAN and Australia to drop local content requirements, referring to steps by Poland and other East European nations to eliminate such requirements to promote foreign investment.

The APEC ministers will debate trade in services, a multilateral trade organization, and other issues Wednesday morning before capping three days of informal and formal discussions.

Muto is scheduled to meet separately with Crosbie and other trade ministers Tuesday afternoon to discuss multilateral and bilateral trade issues.

'Limited Success' Made

OW1309011690 Tokyo KYODO in English 2350 GMT 12 Sep 90

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Vancouver, Canada, Sept. 12 KYODO—Government ministers from the 12-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group ended three days of talks Wednesday with limited success in moving forward protracted global trade negotiations on textiles, investment, and tariff reductions.

They failed, however, to make any headway in the field of agricultural trade.

Japanese and South Korean trade ministers cited "political difficulties" in fully opening up their agricultural markets but went along with the 10 other APEC ministers in calling for "deeper and faster" reductions in export subsidies.

Canada's International Trade Minister John Crosbie said at a news conference that "the tough, political decisions are now upon us" to ensure the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round by its December deadline.

"The results of this meeting show that APEC countries are leading by example in the MTN (Multilateral Trade Negotiations)," he said at the news conference with his counterparts from the United States, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and the six-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Kabun Muto, the Japanese minister of international trade and industry, said Japan "will do its best" to produce a list of its farm import barriers by October 1, as required under the Uruguay Round, and with a farm trade liberalization program by the October 15 deadline also set under the round.

"But we are not withdrawing the 'food security' concept," Muto said at the joint news conference, alluding to Japan's policy of continuing rice import restrictions to ensure a stable supply of the nation's staple food.

At a separate news conference, Muto emphasized, "rice is not the only agricultural commodity."

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills said the lifting of Japan's near-total ban on rice imports over a transitional period of "more than a decade" is crucial for the Uruguay Round's success. "Yes, we must have rice on the (negotiating) table," Hills said. In a meeting with a small group of reporters, she also said she sensed in the APEC session that there will be "more precision on the next step" to be taken by Japan.

Crosbie, who expressed deep disappointment at ASEAN's inflexible positions on trade-related investment rules and intellectual property at Tuesday's working dinner, was cautiously optimistic about the outcome of the Uruguay Round, being held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). "APEC countries stand for a comprehensive, substantive outcome to the negotiations," he said in summing up the talks, which focused on tariffs and nontariff barriers, services trade, and dispute settlement mechanisms, as well as textiles and clothing, agriculture, investment, and intellectual property. "On behalf of my APEC colleagues, I urge all other MTN participants to bring a similar dedication and full commitment to the final stage of the negotiations," he said.

Malaysian Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said at the joint news conference her country proposed additional tariff cuts in the course of the APEC conference. She said the Vancouver meeting marked "a big step forward" toward the successful conclusion of the four-year round, due for completion in December.

Hills told reporters the meeting helped to "close the gap in differences" between the developed and developing APEC members. The chief U.S. trade negotiator denied that she questioned the legitimacy of APEC's existence Tuesday night because of ASEAN's reluctance to be more forthcoming in global trade talks. The outcome of the APEC meeting showed "how important cooperation and collaboration is internationally and in this case in APEC," Hills added.

During the meeting, Canada and the U.S. agreed to reconsider an approach involving global textile quotas in what appeared to be a major concession to several ASEAN countries. The 12 APEC nations agreed on a transitional period of 10 years to terminate the current Multifiber Arrangement (MFA) that governs world textile trade.

"All participants are willing to explore seriously whether an MFA-based approach can deal in an equitable way with the concerns of participants in respect of import surges, new suppliers, growth rates, and flexibility provisions," Crosbie said in his chairman's summary.

In another concession to the less wealthy APEC members, the U.S., Japan, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand said they recognize that "the right to introduce import restrictions for legitimate balance-of-payments purposes should be maintained." The U.S. has complained that some developing countries are resorting to the measure without much legitimacy.

South Korean Trade and Industry Minister Pak Pil-su acknowledged at the joint news conference, "We have problems particularly in the field of agriculture," referring to the fact that 20 percent of South Korea's population are engaged in agriculture.

In the area of tariffs and nontariff barriers, Japan said it is receptive to a "total mutual elimination" of tariffs on selected products to go beyond an across-the-board 33 percent tariff cut. But Muto refused to include forestry and fishery products in a possible list of products subject to such tariff reductions, despite a strong request from Crosbie.

On the protection of intellectual property such as computer programs and patents, Japan proposed a transitional period of five years for developing countries and a longer term for the poorest countries.

Crosbie, saying APEC represents a "microcosm" of some 100 participating nations in the GATT trade round, said after the meeting that he detected "important signs of flexibility on a number of issues."

Reportage on Kanemaru's Upcoming Visit to DPRK

Kaifu To Send Message

OW1709162290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1244 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 17 KYODO—Senior Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader Shin Kanemaru will carry a special message from LDP President Toshiki Kaifu when he travels to Pyongyang next week, Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto indicated Monday. Sakamoto said it is unlikely that Prime Minister Kaifu will send a letter to North Korean President Kim Il-song as head of the Japanese ruling party because the visit is to take place at the party level. [sentence as received]

Kanemaru and Japan Socialist Party Vice Chairman Makoto Tanabe are to leave September 24 for a five-day visit at the invitation of the Korean Workers' Party.

"It is possible that Kaifu will use some method to express his views as head of the ruling party," Sakamoto told a news conference.

There has been speculation on whether Kaifu would take advantage of the occasion to apologize for Japan's 1910-1945 colonization of Korea. Japan has apologized and paid war reparations to South Korea, but not to the North, with which it has no diplomatic ties. An apology would help pave the way for an improvement of relations in other areas.

Government Offers Support

OW1109121890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1112 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 11 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru on Tuesday that his ministry will help him as much as possible to make his planned visit to North Korea successful. Kanemaru replied that he hoped his visit to Pyongyang would result in a breakthrough in bilateral relations, officials said. Nakayama asked Kanemaru to have a frank exchange of views with North Korea to improve bilateral relations, they said.

Kanemaru, the head of the largest faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], is scheduled to visit North Korea on September 24-28 as head of an LDP delegation to improve relations between Tokyo and Pyongyang. Kanemaru will be the most senior LDP officer ever to visit North Korea, which has no diplomatic relations with Japan.

Compensation Talks Urged

OW1309143890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Yokkaichi, Mie Pref., Sept. 13 KYODO—Influential conservative politician Shin Kanemaru called Thursday for opening talks between Japan and North Korea to discuss Japan's compensation for its 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula.

Kanemaru, who is due to visit North Korea later this month as head of a high-powered delegation from Japan's governing Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], said Japan and North Korea should first establish liaison offices in each other's country before commencing such talks.

Kanemaru told reporters, "If North Korea argues for resolution of the compensation matter first of all, such a claim cannot be acceptable. The two countries should set up contact points and discuss (the matter) as soon as possible."

Kanemaru is known as former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's political mentor and served as deputy prime minister in the cabinet of then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. He is currently head of the LDP's largest faction, founded by Takeshita.

Kanemaru and Japan Socialist Party Vice Chairman Makoto Tanabe will lead a separate party delegation to Pyongyang on September 24- 28 aimed at improving relations between Japan and North Korea.

Japan, which once ruled the Korean peninsula, established diplomatic ties with South Korea in 1965 but has maintained no such links with the North.

As preconditions for improving bilateral relations, North Korea has demanded Japan's apology for its colonial rule, compensation, and promises of economic cooperation. Kanemaru said he will respect former Prime Minister Takeshita's statement at the Diet in March last year, expressing remorse for Japan's colonial rule. Takeshita said in the statement, "On this occasion when the situation surrounding the Korean peninsula is entering upon a new era, I would like to express, toward all the people of the peninsula, our deep remorse and regret for the unfortunate past."

Kanemaru said he will seek the release, for humanitarian reasons, of two Japanese seamen, detained there since 1983 for alleged spying. "I do not go to buy (their release) with money and they have no intention of making a sale."

Kanemaru said he hopes his visit will result in a breakthrough in bilateral relations.

Officials Join Mission

OW1409192290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1413 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 14 KYODO—Two Foreign Ministry officials will accompany a high-powered delegation from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition Japan Socialist Party (JSP) to North Korea between September 24-28, the ministry said Friday.

The officials are Yutaka Kawashima deputy director general of the ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, and Eiji Yamamoto, a senior official of the bureau's Northeast Asian Division.

The mission, led by the LDP's former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru and JSP Vice Chairman Makoto Tanabe, is seeking a breakthrough in bilateral relations.

The two nations have no diplomatic relations, and the JSP has been the only communications link between them since Korea was divided following the end of Japanese colonial rule in 1945.

The mission hopes to gain the release of two Japanese seamen detained in North Korea since 1983 on charges of espionage.

Officials from other government agencies, including the Transport Ministry and of Posts and Telecommunications Ministry, will also accompany the delegation, as inauguration of direct Tokyo-Pyongyang flights and satellite communication services will be on the agenda in working-level discussions. Kanemaru will lead a 13-member LDP delegation, while Tanabe will lead a 10-member JSP delegation on the joint mission.

LDP Urges Sailors' Release

OW1509123290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1207 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 15 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) hopes to win the release of two Japanese seamen held in North Korea during an LDP delegation's visit to Pyongyang late this month, party sources said Saturday.

The LDP hopes a joint statement will be issued at the end of the visit announcing the release of Isamu Beniko and Yoshio Kuriura, skipper and first mate of the Japanese freighter No. 18 Fujisan Maru. The joint statement is expected to be issued after North Korean President Kim Il-song meets former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru, who will lead the LDP delegation. It will be part of a joint mission with the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), whose delegation will be led by party Vice Chairman Makoto Tanabe. The visit, from September 24-28, is at the invitation of the Korean Workers' Party.

The JSP has been the only channel of communications between Japan and North Korea, which have no diplomatic relations. The Korean Peninsula was divided following the end of Japanese colonial rule there August 15, 1945.

This month's visit is aimed at improving relations between the two countries and winning the release of the two Japanese seamen. The sailors were arrested in 1983, after a North Korean stowed away to Japan on an earlier voyage of their ship, and convicted of espionage in 1987. The mission will be accompanied by senior Foreign Ministry officials who hope to establish the first direct government contact since North Korea was proclaimed in September 1948.

On other issues, the party officials said the LDP will give priority to setting up liaison offices in each other's countries as a way of improving relations. The party thinks reparations to the North for Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of Korea should be modeled on payments made to South Korea, the officials said. Japan pledged to extend 300 million dollars in grants and 200 million dollars in loans to South Korea when Tokyo and Seoul normalized relations in 1965.

Touching on an official apology for Japan's colonization of the Korean Peninsula, the LDP sources said Kanemaru will make an oral apology to Kim in line with a speech made by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in the Diet in March last year. Takeshita told the parliament that Japan expressed deep regret and apologies to all the people of the Korean Peninsula for Japan's colonization of Korea.

Pyongyang Might Release Sailors

OW1709135890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1220 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 17 KYODO—North Korea may release two Japanese seamen detained in 1983 on espionage charges on October 10, the 45th anniversary of the Korean Workers' Party, informed sources said Monday.

Release of Isamu Beniko and Yoshio Kuriura, skipper and first mate of the Japanese freighter No. 18 Fujisan Maru, is top on the agenda during the upcoming visits by delegations of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party

(LDP) and the opposition Japan Socialist Party (JSP) September 24-28. The two seamen were arrested in 1983 after a North Korean stowaway used their ship to go to Japan on an earlier voyage. They were convicted of espionage in 1987. The two may be able to return home by the end of the year at the latest, the sources said.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru, who leads the LDP delegation to Pyongyang, will likely discuss with the North Korean officials the procedure of their release, the sources said.

Kanemaru is scheduled to meet with North Korean President Kim Il-song on September 27 and make a formal apology for Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula, according to the sources. A joint statement will be issued after their meeting.

Two days, September 26-27, will be devoted to discussing issues concerning establishment of liason offices in each other's nations and utilization of telecommunication satellites.

Kanemaru and his delegation will enter and leave Pyongyang on Japan Airlines (JAL) direct flights, the sources said. This is the first direct flight from Japan. A North Korean airliner flew to Japan in 1985. The only problems concerning the direct flight between the two nations are technical and not political, the sources said.

The JSP has been the sole channel of contacts between Japan and North Korea, which have no diplomatic relations. The LDP and JSP missions, aimed at improving bilateral relations, will be accompanied by senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Ministry Voices Concern Over Events in Burma

OW1109112290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0836 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 11 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry said Tuesday Japan is "deeply concerned" over the Myanmar [Burmese] military government's arrest last Friday of the acting leader of the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) and five other party members. "The Government of Japan cannot but express deep concern with these arrests," said spokesman Taizo Watanabe in a meeting with foreign correspondents.

Watanabe said the event is a setback for expectations that the military government would move to transfer the reins of power to the NLD following its defeat by the opposition in the general elections held May 27.

Myanmar authorities Friday arrested acting NLD leader Kyi Maung and five other senior NLD officials, accusing them of having passed along state secrets. Meanwhile, the league's two main leaders, Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin U, have been under house arrest since July 1989.

Watanabe said Japan has repeatedly called on the Myanmar Government to talk with the NLD in order to effect an early and smooth transfer of political power. "The situation there still remains unclear." "Japan repeats its strong hope that the Government of Myanmar, fully respecting the results of the last general election, will take sincere steps toward the realization of a civilian government, in accordance with the will of the people," he said.

Meanwhile, the International Network for Democracy in Burma, a pro-democracy Myanmar expatriates' group, condemned the arrests and called on military officers "with conscience" to rise up against the military rulers. The group said in a statement released in Tokyo that the arrests were based on "false and illegal reasons" and that they were directed against legitimate NLD leaders. The military must prevent "the national army from being recorded in history as one that destroyed the motherland," the statement said.

Burmese Stage Anti-Burma Government Rally

OW1509095790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0926 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 15 KYODO—About 60 Myanmar people staged an anti-Myanmar Government rally in Tokyo on Saturday to mark the second anniversary of an army crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations in September 1988. The rally was organized by the Burmese Association in Japan (BAIJ) and the International Network for Democracy in Burma (INDB), and marched to the Myanmar embassy, in Tokyo.

Leaders of the two antigovernment organizations attempted to hand over a note of protest to embassy diplomats, but they refused to accept it. The protest note said Myanmar residents in Japan will continue to struggle against Myanmar's military junta until "true" democracy is restored in the country. The letter said, "we have no alternative but to fight against military rulers at the cost of our life and property."

After the demonstration, the protesters held a meeting and the president of the INDB, Tun Aye, called on them to help each other in Japanese society to promote Myanmar's democratic movement until the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) hands over power to the National League for Democracy (NLD).

The SLORC has rejected handing over power to the NLD, after the opposition party won a landslide victory in May's general elections. Instead, the SLORC arrested six prominent NLD leaders last week, including acting Supreme Party leader Kyi Maung.

Business Mission Leaves for China 16 Sep

OW1609070390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0632 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sep 16 (KYODO)—A high-powered Japanese business mission left for Beijing on Sunday to discuss bilateral economic cooperation after Tokyo's recent lifting of a freeze on official credits to China.

The 60-member delegation, organized by the Japan-China Association on Economy and Trade, is headed by association President Ryoichi Kawai. Members include Eishiro Saito, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

During its stay until Friday, the mission will confer with Chinese leaders, including Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng, association officials said.

At the Houston Summit of seven major industrial countries in July, Japan won tacit approval of its plan to resume official lending to China frozen after Beijing's crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in June last year.

As reported earlier, the mission will ask China to relax curbs on auto and motorcycle imports imposed last May as part of efforts to improve its trade balance.

Bar Association Urges Stay for PRC Activists

OW1409135390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1037 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 14 KYODO—The government should stand by the 1989 Paris summit declaration and assure residence rights in Japan for pro-democracy Chinese who fear persecution back home, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations said on Friday. The call responds to emergency appeals filed by student and other Chinese in Japan who have been denied extensions of their residence permits, the association's human rights protection committee chairman, Masataro Tanimura, said.

As of late August, at least 31 Chinese in the Tokyo area could not get visa extensions and were facing deportation though they submitted documents to show the possibility of persecution if they returned to China, Tanimura told a press conference.

Noting that, after China's bloody crushing of the pro-democracy movement in Beijing in June last year, leaders of the world's major industrialized nations pledged at the Paris summit to allow Chinese activists to stay in their countries, the association urged Tokyo to assure the immigration status desired by Chinese.

U.S. President George Bush has ordered that Chinese be allowed to stay in the U.S. until 1994 with the freedom to travel and work, and West European nations have adopted similar policies, he said.

Among the 31 Chinese known to face deportation, four, who joined pro-democratic anti-government campaigns last year in either China or Tokyo, have already been ordered to prepare to leave Japan against their will. But as with the others facing deportation, immigration officers later issued a stamped document, saying "this person has applied for an extension," after they pleaded for extensions in the presence of a lawyer or members of the press, lawyer Katsutoshi Fujimori said.

A Chinese resident of Tokyo who attended the press conference said he joined the pro-democratic movement in Beijing and has been informed that he would face arrest back home. He said his application to stay longer has repeatedly been rejected by Japanese officials.

Fujimori said the Japanese Government, a signer of the summit declaration, should have set up a policy right after the Paris summit to unconditionally secure the immigration status of those Chinese who fear to go home in connection with the 1989 Tiananmen incident.

The Justice Ministry officials have said they will make only "case-by-case" decisions on visa extensions for foreigners.

Spokesman Defends Minister's Asian Games Visit

OW1709140190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1214 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu asked Education Minister Kosuke Hori on Monday to represent Japan at the opening of the Asian Games in Beijing Saturday, the top government spokesman said. The decision came after repeated calls from China to send a cabinet minister to the games, despite a ban by Western countries on cabinet-level contacts to protest China's June 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

It appears unlikely that Hori, the first Japanese cabinet minister to visit China since the Tiananmen Square violence, will meet with government officials. Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto cited China's cooperation in condemning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as a reason for dispatching Hori. Sakamoto also mentioned China's "efforts" to reform. Asked to cite actual examples of reform and democratization, Sakamoto said he was not qualified to comment.

Sakamoto told reporters that Japan decided to dispatch Hori without consulting with six other Western industrialized nations which originally agreed with Japan on the ban. "This was our own independent decision," he said.

At July's Houston summit Kaifu and the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Italy, the United States and West Germany agreed to review restrictions in relations with Beijing in response to future developments in China. Since the summit, a steady stream of senior members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party have travelled to China. Kaifu earlier asked former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to travel to China this month as a special envoy to announce the resumption of an 810 billion yen loan package.

Kaifu announced plans to unfreeze the loans in Houston. So far Tokyo is the only summit nation to openly move toward normalizing relations with China.

Sakamoto told reporters in July that the government would not dispatch Hori to China in September. He made the comment after former Foreign Minister

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka told Chinese leaders in Beijing of the plan. Sakamoto said at the time Japan would reconsider the matter if China became more democratic. He also told reporters that Kaifu would dispatch former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to China as his special envoy to announce the resumption of an 810 billion yen loan package. Sakamoto also withdrew those remarks, saying that Takeshita would neither represent the government nor deliver a message on the unfreezing of the loans. "It appears that Takeshita does not wish to be a special envoy," Sakamoto said.

A top Foreign Ministry official told reporters that Hori's visit to China does not violate the agreement reached at the July 1989 summit of the seven major industrialized nations in Paris, which he said Japan considers to be still in force. Speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, the official said the Paris agreement called on the summiteers to exercise self-restraint in cabinet-level contacts with China. "But that was not meant to rule out all cabinet-level contacts," he said, noting that the summit members shared the view that there could be exceptions "depending on the cirumstances at a given time."

Hori's visit, the official said, "is just such a case-by-case exception and should not be misonstrued as a lifting (of the restriction on high-level contacts)." The official said that sending Hori is a "political decision" which took into account who invited him as well as China's positive moves in the United Nations Security Council in response to the current crisis in the Persian Gulf region.

The official noted that China's Olympic Committee has extended an invitation to Hori, adding that Japan did feel it necessary to consult other summit nations regarding Hori's visit.

Australian Prime Minister Hawke Arrives in Tokyo

OW1609101690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0917 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 16 KYODO—Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke arrived in Tokyo on Sunday for talks with Japanese leaders and to attend a general meeting of the International Olympic Committee opening Monday.

Hawke will promote a campaign to invite the 1996 Olympic Games to Melbourne. He will be received by Emperor Akihito on Wednesday and meet Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday.

Djibouti's President Aptidon Continues Visit

EA1409135890 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Alhaji Hasan Gouled Aptidon, president of the Republic of Djibouti, has said in Tokyo that a solution should be found to the Gulf crisis before it gets out of control. He said if the situation explodes, it will have great repercussions on the Gulf region. The president of Djibouti has once again made clear Djibouti's support for the United Nations resolutions and the Arab League which condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. President Hasan Gouled Aptidon made these remarks during a press conference in Tokyo on the fifth day of his visit to Japan.

[Begin correspondent recording] Alhaji Hasan Gouled Aptidon, president of Republic of Djibouti, today chaired a meeting which was attended by the leaders of Djibouti and Japan. During the meeting the president thanked the Japanese Government for its economic assistance to the Republic of Djibouti.

At the meeting three financial agreements were signed in which the Japanese Government pledged to fund the construction and equipping of television transmitters, agricultural promotion, and finally, the provision of Japanese food aid to Djibouti on a yearly basis.

During the meeting, the president also discussed with Japanese leaders the funding of other development projects Japan is expected to begin funding next year. These projects are as follows: the construction of a data processing factory; the equipping of the second phase of Djibouti national radio and television; [words indistinct] of Djibouti City; and last, the provision of boats and water for nomads in some districts of the country.

Speaking during a press conference at his hotel in Tokyo, the president of the republic clarified the Republic of Djibouti's stance with regard to the Gulf crisis. The president said the Republic of Djibouti has fully supported the resolutions and decisions of the UN Security Council. He added that the Republic of Djibouti had shown its satisfaction with the transfer of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo. [passage omitted]

On diplomatic relations between Japan and the Republic of Djibouti, the president said that the relations between the two countries are at their best stage, though they only started recently. He expressed the hope that the relations would reach greater heights.

The president and his delegation are tomorrow scheduled to visit Hiroshima and Osaka, where they will meet and hold discussions with the representatives of major Japanese companies. [end recording]

Official Urges Successful End to GATT Talks

OW1409192190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1450 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 14 KYODO—A senior Japanese negotiator said Friday that ongoing global trade negotiations must be wrapped up with a successful conclusion by the December deadline to ensure free trade.

"A failure should not be allowed from a political viewpoint," Japanese ambassador in Geneva Hidetoshi Ukawa told KYODO NEWS SERVICE in an interview.

Ukawa said the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations must be concluded successfully so that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade can strengthen its role in the world trade system. "Although details of some issues might remain unsolved, agreements within a broad framework could be reached out of political consideration if (countries) try to come up with some good ideas," he said.

The four-year trade negotiations, held under the auspices of GATT, are aimed at working out new rules on free trade in agriculture and 14 other sectors by December.

Ukawa is now back home from Geneva to brief Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and other government and ruling party officials on details of progress in the Uruguay Round.

Ukawa voiced strong determination to bring the talks to a successful conclusion, but defended Japan's ban on rice imports despite objections from the United States and many other food-exporting countries. "Each country has its own opinion. And I don't believe any other country is talking about a more difficult issue," Ukawa said, apparently shrugging off criticism that Japan is erecting an obstacle to the mapping out of rules on agriculture trade.

Japan has insisted that the nation's rice market must be protected from imports to maintain self-sufficiency in its staple food from the standpoint of "food security."

Leftists Against Airport Suspected in Arson

OW1609053390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0420 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Osaka, Sep 16 (KYODO)—A time bomb started a fire in a car used by a construction firm working on the new Osaka airport early Sunday, police said. Police said no one was injured in the fire at 1:35 A.M. at a parking lot of an office of Obayashi Corp., a top Japanese construction company, in Sakai, outside Osaka. The blaze burned front sections of the van, which belongs to Obayashi's work office in Hirakata, Osaka, police said.

No one has claimed responsibility, but police said they suspect radical leftists opposed to the airport, considering the similarity of their past attacks and the owner of the van. Investigators located a small battery and burned paper box on the ground under the car, apparently the remains of a fire starter with a time device, police said.

The Osaka-based Obayashi is now engaged in work to supply sand for land reclamation for the construction site of the offshore Kansai International Airport.

On August 31, a homemade fire launcher shot a projectile and triggered a forest fire at a sand supply site in Hannan, south of Osaka, near the new airport construction site.

Radical leftist group Chukakuha (middle core section) claimed responsibility for the earlier fire, bringing to 17 the number of attacks against the airport project by the group since 1980, police said.

Central Bank Indicates Further Monetary Action

OW1209112290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0810 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 12 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday the central bank will continue closely watching the impact of the latest official discount rate hike on the economy. Mieno also told reporters that the bank's recent decision on the rate hike was well justified by the contents of its quarterly survey on near-term corporate business prospects released Tuesday.

The BOJ raised the key lending rate on August 30 by 0.75 percentage point to 6.0 percent in a move to contain any signs of inflation.

At a regular press conference, the central bank governor expressed concern, however, over the situation in the Middle East, noting that the development in the region remains unclear and fluid Mieno predicted the inflationary impact on the Japanese economy of higher crude oil prices caused by the Gulf crisis would be smaller, compared with the previous "oil shocks" in the 1970s.

At the same time, Mineo suggested that any additional monetary actions cannot be totally ruled out if the circumstances force the BOJ to do so.

The scale of the last 0.75-point hike in the official discount rate had failed to assure the markets that no additional hike would be followed soon, according to some financial experts.

Mieno also cautioned against take-advantage price hikes, which he said could lead to trigger "homemade inflation. Mieno said the Mideast tension and the resultant increased inflation worldwide will be high on the agenda at meetings in Washington of international lending agencies slated late this month. Among the issues will be Third World debt problems, as well as social and financial developments rapidly taking place in the Soviet Union and East Europe, he told reporters. Mieno said he still does not know details of the agenda at the global meetings.

Touching on the yen's recent strong showing against the U.S. dollar, Mieno said he expects movements in currency markets to continue to reflect the fundamental economic strength of Japanese economy. He described the yen's appreciation against the U.S. currency in recent weeks as "the phase of correction" of the yen's sharp decline since the beginning of the year.

The central bank governor acknowledged that the U.S. economic activity has slowed down recently but has not plunged into a recession. Under the present slow-paced economy, Mieno said he expects the U.S. Federal

Reserve to keep a cautious monetary policy so the market doesn't lose confidence in its ability to check inflation.

North Korea

Removal of N-S Political Confrontation Stressed

SK1609085090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0835 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 16 (KCNA)—The South side should give up its obstinate stance of confrontation and show a positive response to our sincere proposal, urges NODONG SINMUN today.

One of the important questions in removing political and military confrontation between the North and the South is to remove political confrontation, the news analyst stresses, and goes on:

Political confrontation between the North and the South has been carried into the extremer. [as received]

It is the starting point of improving mutual relations, coming closer to each other and seeking reconciliation for the North and the South to stop slanders and political functions instigating confrontation.

This is all the more urgent because the South Korean ruling quarters resort to slanders in their anti-communist, anti-DPRK campaign, fabricating unreasonable lies and inciting mistrust and hostility against the North among the South Korean people.

It is of essential significance in removing political confrontation to remove legal and institutional mechanisms contrary to national unity, ensure the freedom of the press and the freedom of ideology and demolish physical barrier between the North and the South.

Nothing can be resolved in the North-South relations without tearing down the legal, institutional and physical barriers between the North and the South built by the South Korean rulers.

Military confrontation, along with political confrontation, must be removed.

At the first North-South high level talks, the South side slighted or shelved the matter of removing political and military confrontation and did not utter a word about the abolition of the "National Security Law" in South Korea, the demolition of the concrete wall and the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons. This is not a true stand for resolving the question of peace and reunification.

The question of removing political and military confrontation becoming acute on the Korean peninsula, creating an atmosphere of trust and peaceful preconditions for national reunification entirely depends on the attitude of the South Korean authorities.

ROK Stance on Military Confrontaton Criticized

SK1709052990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0526 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 17 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today urges the South Korean authorities to accept without delay our fair and aboveboard proposal to remove military confrontation.

The most important question in maintaining peace on the Korean peninsula and accelerating the peaceful reunification of the country at present is to remove the military confrontation between the North and the South, the news analyst says, and goes on:

Removing the military confrontation and ensuring a peaceful climate on the Korean peninsula is not only to keep our nation safe from the danger of nuclear war but also to create an important precondition for a peaceful solution of the reunification question.

Military confrontation is a factor of misunderstanding and distrust between the North and the South. When guns roar and the fear that one side might vanquish the other with "strength" is not dispelled, it is impossible for the North and the South to have dialogue with mutual trust.

Removing the military confrontation and easing the tensions will lead to reunification and it is a question requiring most preferential solution.

While talking about "detente," "peace" and "confidence-building" at the first North-South High-Level talks, the South Korean authorities took the attitude of completely turning their back on the question of disarmament and withdrawal of U.S. forces and nuclear weapons and trying to shelve it.

The attitude of the South side tells that they still follow the anti-national stance of attempting to do harm to their fellow countrymen, hand in glove with outside forces.

The South side must work toward realizing disarmament and adopting a non-aggression declaration with the North and getting the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea.

ROK Discussions on UN Membership Criticized

SK1709034590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "An Act of Throwing Cold Water Over Dialogue"]

[Text] During the recently held first round of North-South High-Level talks, both sides agreed to continue to discuss the United Nations issue, and on 18 September, a delegate meeting of both sides will be held in Panmunjom.

However, even before delegates of both sides sit face to face, useless talk saying this or that on the issue of entering the United Nations is being heard in South Korea.

According to reports, on 14 September the so-called puppet foreign minister held a news conference and talked about some kind of international position, and raved that there is no change in the position that South Korea must enter the United Nations.

This is throwing cold water on the North-South High-Level talks, interfering in the discussions on the United Nations, and is an unforgivable criminally absurd remark made by those who only pursue division.

As the whole world knows, South Korea is completely a colony of the U.S. imperialists and is under their subordination in the political, economic, and military field. Also, the so-called South Korean regime which cannot be represented by anyone is a colonial puppet regime being fabricated and maintained by the U.S. imperialists.

It is very clear that the puppets—who do not have any kind of sovereign rights—are not even qualified to enter the United Nations, where only sovereign and independent countries can enter.

Nevertheless, the puppets are babbling about some kind of international position, which is ridiculous talk to deceive the people by pretending that they are qualified.

This is truly a presumptuous act of not being able to know one's position and of not being able to distinguish where to sit from where not to sit.

If the North and South enter the United Nations separately, or if only one side enters while Korea is divided into the North and South, this will be legitimizing the existence of two Koreas internationally and perpetuate the country's division.

Therefore, our government of the Republic consistently opposed the country's division and from the desire of achieving reunification, urged that we enter the United Nations as one reunified Korea.

Our principle position is that if North and South Korea enter the United Nations before reunification is achieved, we should not enter under two separate seats but enter under one seat, which is beneficial to the cause of the nation's reunification.

The issue of entering the United Nations is directly related with the issue of whether Korea will be reunified or divided. Therefore, it is proper to resolve this issue through national agreement, and agreement between the North and South, which is in accordance with the nation's reunification and the common interest of the nation. This is the very reason we proposed to hold discussions on the issue of the United Nations at the high-level talks.

However, while the puppets are proposing to hold discussions on the United Nations issue, they are also babbling that they have not changed their position. Therefore, the true intention of the puppets is evident.

Their intention is to sit face to face with us only to exchange arguments, while in reality they are attempting to enter the United Nations to legitimize the country's division internationally and fabricate two Koreas.

There is no change at all yesterday or today in the intention of the South Korean puppets, which is to use the United Nations as a stage to perpetuate the country's division.

Making that kind of useless talk even before sitting face to face with us, after agreeing to hold discussions and negotiations on the United Nations issue in the high-level talks by both sides, is an issue related to the future of the high-level talks. It is inevitable for us to see this as a grave situation.

The whole Korean nation, hoping to achieve the reunification of the fatherland, will not allow the puppet clique to carry out maneuvers to enter the United Nations separately.

The South Korean puppets must throw away the same old practice of the splittist position and must not further carry out the act of clouding the future of dialogues.

Paper Demands Nuclear Weapon-Free Peninsula

SK1509104390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 15 Sep 90

["Denuclearization of Korean Peninsula Is Urgent Demand for World Peace"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang September 15 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN says in an article today that to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone at an early date is a unanimous demand of the world's peaceloving people and an urgent task of the times.

Noting that the Korean peninsula is a region fraught with the greatest danger of nuclear war in the world, the article says:

From long ago the U.S. imperialists set about the deployment of a large number of nuclear weapons in South Korea to inflict a nuclear scourge on the Korean nation. Subsequently, South Korea has now turned into the biggest nuclear arsenal in the Far East where more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons including neutron bombs called "devilish weapon of the twentieth century" are deployed.

As if it were not enough, the U.S. imperialists continue shipping into South Korea means of nuclear strike and, having worked out a plan to use nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula, maliciously resort to nuclear threat and blackmail against our Republic. What must not be overlooked is that this year they have staged various aerial war exercises almost every day for a surprise preemptive nuclear attack on our republic from the air by massively mobilizing planes of the U.S. Air Force deployed in and around South Korea. Such war exercises may go over to a real war any moment.

As long as tensions persist and the danger of nuclear war remains on the Korean peninsula the world people can neither be free from the danger of nuclear war, nor peace and security of the world can be guaranteed.

The government of our Republic advanced a new important proposal to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone in 1986 and has made strenuous efforts to carry it into effect.

In the later period we have put forward one new proposal after another to take practical measures for making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free, peace zone and consolidating its status.

This notwithstanding, the U.S. imperialists are further reinforcing nuclear armed forces and stepping up preparations for a nuclear war in South Korea on the pretext of "protecting" South Korea from someone's "threat".

They must withdraw their forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea without delay, and the Korean peninsula must be turned into a nuclear-free, peace zone without fail.

Visitors Call for Removal of Wall, U.S. Troops

SK1709051990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 17 (KCNA)—Foreign visitors of Korea strongly demanded an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons, the main obstacle to Korea's reunification, from South Korea and the demolition of the barrier of division, while inspecting Panmunjom and seeing the concrete wall built by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique along the whole length of the military demarcation line.

Esteban Diaz Jaquez, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Dominican Labour Party, said that while visiting Korea he got a better knowledge of the Korean people's desire for reunification.

This time, he declared, we verified the existence of the concrete wall.

The cursed barrier built for the permanent division of Korea must be pulled down at an early date.

If a favourable climate for Korea's reunification is to be created, the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons must be immediately withdrawn from South Korea first of all.

Wilfrido Lucero Bolanos, speaker of the National Congress of Ecuador and president of the Andino Parliament, demanded that the United States occupying South Korea under the veil of the United Nations must quit there at once.

The Ecuadorian people, he said, extend support and solidarity to the Korean people in their struggle for a self-determined, peaceful reunification of the country. He accused the United States of scheming to keep the Korean people divided into two for ever.

Felipe Humberto Pecheno Rivera, secretary of Los Andes University of Venezuela, said that the U.S. imperialists instigated the South Korean puppets to build the concrete wall in the area south of the military demarcation line and are scheming to keep Korea bisected for ever.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are splittists who oppose Korea's reunification he noted.

Valeri Voloshin, secretary of the Tynda City, Amur region, committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, voiced support to the struggle of the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reunify the country in accordance with the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity.

Japanese Visitors Support Reunification Plan

SK1609090490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0824 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 16 (KCNA)—The delegation of the Saga, Japan, prefectural committee for supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea stressed that it confirmed at first hand the existence of the concrete wall, a symbol of division.

In a statement issued here on September 14 prior to its departure, the delegation said that while travelling Korea, it confirmed once again the lie of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities in denying the existence of the wall.

It further said:

We consider it to be the most reasonable and just way that the North and the South of Korea reunify the country by means of founding a confederal republic.

We express full support to the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo and the five-point policy of national reunification advanced by President Kim Il-song and the new disarmament proposal of the DPRK.

In order to realise free travel and total opening between the North and the South, it is imperative to pull down the concrete wall built by the South side.

The United States must withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea and respond to the DPRK-U.S. talks.

The South Korean authorities must give up the "two Koreas" plot and accept the DPRK Government's proposal to reunify the country by means of founding a confederal republic on the three principles of national reunification.

They must also scrap the "National Security Law" and release Mun Ik-hwan, Yim Su-kyong and other people who visited the north and all the political prisoners.

The Japanese authorities must renounce the one-sided policy favouring South Korea, stop acts obstructive to Korean reunification and make a radical switchover in its policy towards Korea.

While touring various places the members of the delegation witnessed the excellent achievements made by the Korean people in socialist construction under the wise leadership of the great President Kim Il-song and dear Secretary Kim Chong-il, upholding the banner of the chuche idea, the advantages and might of the Korean-style socialist system and the bright future of Korea, the statement stressed.

Red Cross Communicates With ROK Counterpart

SK1709104390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 17 (KCNA)—Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on September 17 sent a telephone message to Kim Sang-hyop, president of the South Korean Red Cross.

Acknowledging the receipt of the latter's telephone message dated September 13, he said it is our consistent stand to lessen at the earliest date possible the misfortunes and sufferings of the families and relatives living separated in the North and the South and promote the self-determined peaceful reunification of the country.

Proceeding from this stand, stated the message, we had proposed many a time the resumption of the contact between North-South Red Cross working-level contact for the discussion of the exchange of second art troupes and home- visiting groups and the reopening of the 11th full-dressed Red Cross talks.

Deeming it fortunate that your side showed a response to our repeated proposals, we notify you that we will send at a proper time in future our reply to your side's telephone message dated September 13, concluded the message.

U.S., ROK Air Force Exercises Analyzed

SK1609082990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0818 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 16 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists on September 12 let a formation of nuclear-capable F-16 fighter-bombers based in Misawa, Japan, stage an aerial exercise simulating a forestalling attack at the strategic interior and main inland targets of the northern half of Korea in coordination with formations of fighter-bombers of the same kind belonging to the U.S. Seventh Air Force stationed in South Korea, according to military sources.

On the 12th and 13th, a formation of Guam-based KC-135 refueling tankers staged a war exercise of mid-air refueling several formations of F-16 fighter-bombers belonging to the U.S. Seventh Air Force.

The U.S. imperialists deployed in the Kunsan Air Force base on the 12th C-130 transport planes bringing huge armed forces and combat equipment from their bases in the Pacific region.

On the 13th, they staged an air strike exercise for supporting the naval operation in the waters off Kangrung with a sortie of an overseas-based S-2 antisubmarine plane. [as received]

Meanwhile, the South Korean puppets staged an air strike exercise for supporting an operation of ground units against the North in the air above Pochon, Chunchon and Tongduchon with sorties of some 50 fighter-bombers, assault planes and early warning planes belonging to the South Korean puppet air force on the 12th and 13th.

A total of 540 planes were mobilized in war exercises of various kinds in the air above South Korea on the 13th.

Entering September the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have intensively staged in areas near the military demarcation line such provocative exercises against the North as command team mobile exercise, aerial mobile exercise of commandoes, low-speed, low-altitude infiltration exercise of armed helicopters, dropping exercise from balloons, parachuting exercise for infiltrating into the interior, exercise for capturing a position and breaking through the front, exercise for infiltrating into the interior and operation of "commandoes".

More on U.S. Exercise

SK1409112290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 14 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors on September 11 staged a mid-air refuelling exercise with the mobilization of Guam-based KC-135 refuelling tankers and some formations of F-16 fighter-bombers belonging to the U.S. Seventh Air Force in South Korea in the sky above the West Sea of Korea, according to military sources.

They held an air strike exercise against the North on September 9 with A-6 assault planes based in Iwakuni, Japan, in the sky above Chungju.

They let formations of F-16 fighter-bombers belonging to the U.S. Seventh Air Force fly in the sky above

Kunsan on September 10 for an aerial war exercise to raise the capacity of striking the ground targets in a bad weather.

They mobilized an E-3 early warning plane based in Kadena, Okinawa, on September 11-12 in the sky above an area near the military demarcation line for an electronic reconnaissance on the depth and aerial targets of the northern half of Korea and command of planes involved in an aerial war exercise.

The South Korean puppets mobilized about 50 F-16 and F-4 fighter-bombers belonging to the puppet airforce on September 11 in an air strike exercise for a surprise attack on inland targets of the northern half of the country, with the support of the U.S. imperialists' E-3 early warning plane based in Kadena, Okinawa.

U.S. Arms Contracts With ROK Criticized

SK1609082690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0808 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 16 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists decided to deliver to South Korea 500 million dollars worth of "Black Hawk", a latest-type multi-purpose offensive helicopter, according to a report.

According to an announcement of the company producing the helicopter, a total of 80 to 100 of it will be delivered to South Korea.

An earlier announcement in Washington said 120 FA-18 fighter planes worth 4.7 billion dollars will be supplied to South Korea.

These facts show how desperately the U.S. imperialists are trying to whip the South Korean puppet clique into war provocation moves against the North of Korea.

At a time when our republic is making every sincere effort to defuse the political and military confrontation between the North and the South, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique are answering this with arms buildup. Such criminal acts of theirs evoke towering indignation among the entire Korean people.

'Reckless' U.S. 'Blackmail' in Gulf Reported

SK1709052190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0513 GMT 17 Sep 90

["Unpardonable Outburst of Warmaniac"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang September 17 (KCNA)—U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney recently told the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee that, if fighting erupted in the Gulf, "a Panama-style American assault can be expected," according to a report.

This is an outburst revealing the U.S. imperialist warmonger's attempt at committing a very dangerous war adventure in the Gulf.

The U.S. imperialists deployed huge armed forces of the ground, naval, air and marine units in the Gulf, Saudi Arabia and other places and are making military blackmail, blaring that they would deal a total, simultaneous and fatal blow at Iraq and make a decisive attack on it.

The "Panama-style assault" hinted by Cheney is a "lightning intensive attack". In the sudden invasion of Panama in December last year, the U.S. imperialists employed a lightning-quick, overpowering attack using fighters, bombers, paratroopers, ground troops, naval units and special operation forces, occupied this country in a moment and committed without hesitation in broad daylight a brigandish acts of kidnapping Noriega, the then head of the legitimate Government of Panama, and escorting him to the United States.

Having committed such hideous armed invasion unimaginable to sound human reason, the U.S. imperialists cried for "defense of democracy" and thus revealed in the raw to the world their hateful color as an impudent and brazen-faced aggressor and warmaniac.

In their brigandish armed invasion of Panama the U.S. imperialists made it plain that "detente", "disarmament" and "peace" advertised by them are sheep lies.

The U.S. imperialists must stop at once the armed intervention and withdraw their armed forces of aggression from the Gulf at an early date, mindful that their reckless war adventures will result in precipitating their international isolation and destruction.

Outcome of NATO Meeting on Gulf Reported

SK1609124590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] A meeting of the NATO foreign ministers was held 10 September in Brussels to discuss the demand of the United States to dispatch further forces to the Gulf region. Also, an agreement was reached regarding transportation assistance for the U.S. troop deployment.

During the meeting, the U.S. secretary of state forcefully presented various demands, such as further dispatch of ground forces; guarantee of sea and air transportation; dispatch of naval forces through the Mediterranean; and strengthening the sanctions against Iraq. However, six countries including West Germany and the Netherlands agreed only to guarantee transportation. Other demands, such as dispatching ground forces, did not receive positive responses.

On 10 September, while adopting a resolution to calculate the amount of financial assistance provided by other countries in settling the Gulf crisis, the U.S. Senate threatened that if Japan and West Germany do not contribute more, U.S. relations with these two countries will be damaged.

The so-called U.S. secretary of defense revealed in Congress that to bear the expenditures for deploying U.S. troops to the Gulf region, it will be inevitable for the U.S.

imperialists to supplement appropriation by $2.7 billion when the current fiscal year ends on 30 September and $15 billion for the next fiscal year.

In a news conference on 9 September, Great Britain's foreign minister who is in Japan to participate in the annual Great Britain-Japan foreign minister's conference, demanded that Japan dispatch its forces to the Gulf region. He said he welcomed the dispatch of Japan's minesweepers and put pressure on Japan by saying that if its forces cannot be dispatched, it can still contribute in other fields.

On 11 September, foreign news media reported that two of the Australian Navy's frigate ships and one supply ship dispatched to Gulf waters received order to fire at ships suspected of violating the the UN-adopted sanctions against Iraq.

This kind of order was in the guideline sent to the commander of the Australian warships dispatched to the Gulf by the country's defense minister.

Athens reported on 12 September that the Greek Navy's frigate ship, ("Linnos"), will move to the Red Sea and join the multinational forces there. Currently, this warship is nearing the Suez Canal.

Previously, Greece reported that this frigate ship will carry out patrol duty in the northeastern part of the Mediterranean.

On 8 September, in a meeting with the European Parliamentary delegation which visited Tunis, president of the state of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat stated that the PLO is against the plan of using force to settle the Gulf crisis.

Japan's Support of U.S. Troop Presence Viewed

SK1709053790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0531 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 17 (KCNA)—Japan is not only opposing the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from the Asia-Pacific region but also zealously supporting their maintenance.

Commenting on this, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

The Japanese Government is calling for the maintenance of huge armed forces of the United States in this region for the "guarantee of the stability in the strained Asian region", while shouldering of its own accord financial burden necessary for this. From this year Japan has earmarked annually 2,900 million dollars for the maintenance of the U.S. forces in Japan, 400 million dollars more than previous years.

In connection with the United States' dispatch of huge armed forces to the Gulf, Japan has shared the expenses necessary for this by means of increasing the costs for the maintenance of the U.S. forces in Japan.

Japan's bearing colossal expenses for the maintenance of huge armed forces of the United States in Asia, in the final analysis, cannot but be an aid to maintain tension.

The news analyst further says:

While getting zealous for the permanent presence of the U.S. forces in Asia, Japan is hunting for a pretext to step up Japan's arms buildup and its conversion into a military power by heightening tension in this region.

Japan wants to exercise influence on the settlement of international problems not only economically but also militarily. This is why the Japanese ruling circles are trying to pave the way for overseas dispatch of the "self-defence forces", availing themselves of the Gulf crisis.

The Japanese reactionaries' moves are contrary to the world people's desire for detente and peace.

The Japanese reactionary ruling circles must be barred from seeking Japan's conversion into a military power and war, while entreating the U.S. forces to remain in Asia indefinitely and heightening tension in this region.

Cambodia's Supreme National Council Hailed

SK1509051390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 15 (KCNA)—The Korean people are glad to hear that the road has been cleared for resolving the Cambodian problem affirmatively, and hail this.

NODONG SINMUN today says this in a commentary on the decision of the representatives of the four factions of Cambodia to form the Supreme National Council.

The news analyst says:

The agreement on the formation of the Supreme National Council is a result of the sincere efforts of the four factions of Cambodia which had continued discussions on a political and peaceful settlement of the Cambodian issue, notably Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, and international community.

The formation of the council made a breakthrough in the political solution of the Cambodian problem. In other words, its formation has opened a practical prospect for achieving national reconciliation, preserving peace and stability in Cambodia and building a united, independent, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned Cambodia.

We hope that the four factions in Cambodia will successfully solve their national issue at an early date in accordance with the will and desire of the entire Cambodian people.

Papers Mark Mexican Anniversary, View Relations

SK1609085490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0841 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 16 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry articles on the occasion of the 180th anniversary of the independence of Mexico.

NODONG SINMUN says in a by-lined article:

Mexico is making active efforts for peace and stability in Central America, maintaining an independent stand in her external relations.

Korea and Mexico established diplomatic relations on September 4, 1980.

The Mexican people's efforts for the development of the country will bear good fruit.

Noting that the independence of Mexico was an event of weighty significance in the history of her people's struggle for the independent development of the country, the author of a MINJU CHOSON article says: Though Korea and Mexico are far away geographically, they, both member nations of the Non-aligned Movement, established and have developed the bonds of friendship.

Believing that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will in the future, too, grow stronger and develop in accordance with the idea of independence, peace and friendship, the Korean people wish the Mexican people greater success in their efforts to build a new society.

Meeting Marks Mexican Anniversary, Letter Sent

SK1709050790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 17 (KCNA)—A meeting was held here Sunday to mark the 180th anniversary of the independence of Mexico.

Present there were Kim Yong-nam, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea and chairman of the Korea-Mexico Friendship Association, Kim Chin-pom, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and other officials concerned and working people in the city.

Speeches were made at the meeting at which a letter to the president of the United Mexican States was adopted.

Kim Il-song Greets Mexican President Salinas

SK1509103890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 15 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on September 14 sent a message of greetings to Carlos Salinas de Gortari, president of the United States of Mexico, on the occasion of the 180th anniversary of the independence of the country.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the two countries will further develop in the idea of independence, peace and friendship, the message wishes him great success in his work to defend the sovereignty and achieve the prosperity of the country.

JSP Friendship Visiting Group Returns Home

SK1409064990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] A visiting friendship group of the Japanese Socialist Party [JSP] headed by (Sakun Masao), member of the Japanese Diet, today returned home by Samjiyonho ship.

A number of workers in Wonsan came to the wharfside with flowers to see off the members of the group.

Respectfully placed in the front of the masses was a portrait of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, and slogans reading "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!" and "Long live the glorious Workers' Party of Korea [WPK]!" were set up.

Also set up in the site were slogans reading "We warmly bid farewell to the visiting JSP friendship group" and "Long live the friendship and unity between the WPK and JSP!"

As the guests appeared in the wharfside, the masses shouted slogans of friendship and unity and warmly bid farewell to them, waving bouquets.

Kwon Min-chun, deputy director of a department of the WPK Central Committee; Kim Chong-son, secretary of the Kangwon Provincial party committee; Yi Chung-il, vice chairman of the Kangwon Provincial Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee and other concerned persons bid farewell to the visiting group at wharfside.

Japan Socialist Party Delegation Arrives

SK1609082090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0803 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 16 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Kumamoto prefectural headquarters of the Japan Socialist Party [JSP] led by member of the House of Representatives Noboru Baba, former secretary general of the JSP, arrived here Saturday.

A delegation of Korean traders and manufacturers in Okayama Prefecture, Japan, headed by Yi Kun-pae, vice-chairman of the prefectural society of traders and manufacturers of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, also arrived here that day for a visit to the socialist homeland.

Foreign Executives Send Anniversary Greetings

SK1509043790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 15 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received messages of greetings from heads of state of various countries on the occasion of the 42nd founding anniversary of the DPRK.

They came from Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga, president of the Republic of Zaire; France Albert Rene, president of the Republic of Seychelles; Hussein the First, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Mario Soares, president of the Portuguese Republic; Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, president of the Republic of Maldives; Carl Gustaf, king of Sweden; Phumiphon Adunyadet, king of Thailand; Mauno Koivisto, president of the Republic of Finland; and Vigdis Finnbogadottir, president of the Republic of Iceland.

Expressing the belief that friendly relations between the DPRK and the above-mentioned countries will further strengthen and develop, the messages wish the Korean people prosperity and progress.

More Foreign Greetings

SK1609083190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0804 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 16 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received messages of greetings from party and state leaders of various countries on the occasion of the 42nd founding anniversary of the DPRK.

They came from Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Frelimo party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique; Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization; Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the Somali Democratic Republic; Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua; Harald, crown prince regent of Norway; H. Kamuzu Banda, president of the Republic of Malawi; and Alberto Fujimori, president of the Republic of Peru.

The messages warmly greet the 42nd founding anniversary of the DPRK and wish the Korean people progress and prosperity.

Kim Chong-il Greeted by Foreign Leaders

SK1709050590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0502 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 17 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from Muhammad Husmi Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Sam Marcy, chairman of the national committee of the workers World Party of the United States; Vasos Lisaridhis, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Cyprus and president of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus; Santiago Carrillo, chairman of the Central Committee of the Spanish Workers' Party; and Rolando Brena Pantoja, president of the Executive Committee of the National Left Revolutionary Union of Peru; on the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of the foundation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The messages warmly greeted the 42nd founding anniversary of the DPRK and wished the Korean people greater success in accomplishing their just cause for socialist construction and national reunification.

Papua New Guinea Independence Anniversary Noted

SK1609084390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0832 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 16 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate articles to the 15th anniversary of the independence of Papua New Guinea.

Noting that the independence of Papua New Guinea was the realisation of the cherished desire of her people, the author of a NODONG SINMUN article says:

The Papua New Guinea people are actively striving for denuclearisation and peace. Particularly, they are resolutely opposed to nuclear test in the South Pacific. They are developing friendly relations with peoples of various countries of the world.

Korea and Papua New Guinea established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level on June 1, 1976 and have developed the friendly relations.

The Korean people congratulate the Papua New Guinea people on the 15th anniversary of independence.

The author of a MINJU CHOSON article says the Korean people wish the Papua New Guinea people greater success in their future work for the prosperity of the country.

Leadership of Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il Praised

SK1609092390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0845 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 16 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article of Kenichi Ogami, secretary general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea, under the title "Following the Guidance of the Leader Who Made People the Master of Society".

The author of the article says:

The superiority of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the international community lies, in a nutshell, in that the people hold the position of master of the state and society, play the role as the master and enjoy a worthy life as such.

There are capitalist countries developed in economy and countries which established the socialist system in the world, but we do not know any other people who enjoy such a free life as the master of the state and society as the Korean people do.

It is none other than President Kim Il-song who put the Korean people in the position of the master of society and led them to play the role of the master.

President Kim Il-song founded the chuche idea that the master of revolution and construction is the popular masses and they are the motive force of the revolution and construction and made it the guideline of the revolution and construction of Korea, thus lifting the popular masses to the highest position and guiding them to display the maximum strength.

Since he embarked on the road of revolution, President Kim Il-song treated people with utmost affection and respect for them and belief in their strength and led the cause of the Korean revolution with the faith that the master of the revolution and construction is the popular masses and revolution is a cause which is conducted by them for their own sake.

He built the party's ideological and organisational backbone in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, liberated the country in August, 1945, and founded the Workers' Party of Korea on October 10 in the same year.

It was not until he set out on the road of revolution that the Korean people became able to maintain independence, the age-old desire of mankind, and proudly walk the road of living as master. Moreover, the world people came into possession of an ideological guarantee for deeply loving the independent people and making people emerge the master of society.

The greatness of President Kim Il-song lies in that he regards people as master and gives them the position and role as such. He is, above all, very modest and tenderhearted.

His rich human character and tender heart can be deeply understood only in context with people.

His affection for and trust in and expectation of people are directed to Japanese people and the rest of the world people , to say nothing of the Korean people.

It is only too natural that the Korean people deeply respect President Kim Il-song from the bottom of their hearts and cherish warm feelings of thanks for him.

The driving force of the revolution has been strengthened in Korea because the leader, party and people are integrated as one and, accordingly, the revolution and construction are dynamically stepped up.

Today the Korean people are living with a pride: They are living with a pride as the master of the country and enjoying a proud life as human beings who exploit and plunder no one and no country.

Saying that the happiness of the people has not been realised fully yet in today's reality, President Kim Il-song in his policy speech on May 24, 1990 "Let Us Bring the Advantages of Socialism in Our Country Into Full Play" newly set out the hallmark of the socialist and communist society aimed at by Korean people and ways of its attainment.

Stressing in his policy speech that in order to build the communist society, we must occupy the ideological and material fortresses, President Kim Il-song said:

"In essence, capturing the material fortress is an effort to prepare the objective conditions for a communist society, but the work of securing the ideological fortress is an undertaking to transform people, the masters of society, along communist lines, in other words to prepare the subject of a communist society. The work of capturing the ideological fortress constitutes the most important aspect of building communism, and the outcome of socialist and communist construction depends, ultimately, on how this work is done."

I am convinced that the Korean people respect the president from the depth of their hearts and the DPRK exists as he stands in the van of the revolution and construction.

It is Secretary Kim Chong-il who not only has devoted his all until now to the people and led them along the road of happiness but also has struggled to realise the idea of President Kim Il-song more brightly, making himself the beacon which will illumine the way ahead of the peoples of Korea and the world in the future, too.

Secretary Kim Chong-il, determined to realise the idea of President Kim Il-song, is conducting energetic activities with the outlook on life that there is no more proud life than to live for the peoples of Korea and the world with respect and trust for the people.

Upholding the banner of the chuche idea, the DPRK guided by President Kim Il-song and Secretary Kim Chong-il is advancing along a straight path toward the man-centred socialist and communist society, the ideal of mankind.

Necessity of Technological Revolution Addressed

SK1509125990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0008 GMT 28 Aug 90

[NODONG SINMUN 28 August special artcle: "Technological Revolution Is Lifeline of Socialist Economic Construction"]

[Text] In his historic policy speech, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, elucidating ways to further enhance the superiority of our socialism, set forth the honorable task of pushing vigorously ahead with the technological revolution. The technological revolution is a sacred revolutionary task to emancipate the working people from difficult and arduous work, and to provide them with conditions for an independent and creative life.

Already in his early days the great leader elucidated chuche-oriented ideology, theory, and policy regarding the technological revolution by explaining anew the essence and position of the technological revolution in the socialist society with people placed at the center. The technological revolution is, in essence, a human liberation revolution which makes the popular masses free from all sorts of natural constraints. The technological revolution is not a task which only pursues enhancing labor productivity and increasing production, but is a sacred revolutionary task of human liberation which makes it possible to eliminate all sorts of natural constraints and to perfectly realize the popular masses' independence. Such a task of human liberation can be set forth only by communists who struggle for the freedom and happiness of the people and can be implemented only in the socialist society in which the people have become the master.

The technological revolution makes it possible to completely emancipate the working people from difficult and arduous labor and, thus, to realize equality in their working lives. Eliminating difficult and arduous labor and, thus, realizing perfect equality in labor life is one of the final goals to realize human liberation in relationship with nature. The realization of perfect equality in labor life means to eliminate the essential distinctions of labor which stem from the distinctions in the technological and cultural level of the working people. To eliminate distinctions in labor conditions and to rapidly promote the technological and cultural level of the working people, it is imperative to introduce developed means of mechanical technology and to ensure that all production activities are carried out by the means of mechanical technology.

Such developed technological means can be provided only through the technological revolution.

By modernizing means of technology and by realizing the mechanization, automation, robotization, and computerization of production, the technological revolution eliminates the essential distinctions of labor, guarantees perfect equality in labor life, and, finally, makes it possible to emancipate the popular masses from all sorts of natural constraints. In his policy speech, the great leader elucidated that socialist economic construction is synonymous with the technological revolution and that the accomplishment of the technological revolution is precisely the lifeline of economic construction.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: In firmly adhering to the view that it is the lifeline of socialist economic construction to carry out the technological revolution, all functionaries should carry out all economic activities, always giving priority to technological development, and should actively struggle for the scientific and technological development of the country and for the technological improvement of the national economy.

Socialist economic construction is synonymous with the technological revolution, and carrying out the technological revolution is precisely the lifeline of economic construction. The socialist and communist cause can be completely consummated only when the ideological fortress and the material fortress alike are occupied. The material fortress of socialism and communism is occupied through economic construction. Only when we vigorously carry out economic construction can we develop the productive power of the country and firmly build the material and technological foundation of socialism and communism.

To actively accelerate socialist economic construction, it is imperative to vigorously push ahead with the technological revolution. Economic construction activities are projects to remake nature. Success in nature-remaking projects relies on the ability to carry them out, that is, the development level of productivity. However, the development of technical means, which constitutes the material foundation of productivity, can be achieved through the technological revolution. Therefore, only when we vigorously push ahead with the technological revolution can we extraordinarily increase productivity by maximum introduction and utilization of automatic and modern production facilities.

The technological revolution plays not only a decisive role in the development of productivity, but also a great role in strengthening economic self-reliance by effectively utilizing the country's resources. Only when we vigorously push ahead with the technological revolution and, thus, develop sciences and technology, can we not only actively find all resources available in our country and maximally increase the economic effectiveness in their utilization, but also firmly build the chuche-oriented raw material base and, accordingly, further enhance the might of our self-reliant economy by smoothly resolving raw materials and resources which are nonexistent or in short supply through our own efforts.

Along with this, we should push ahead vigorously with the technological revolution to achieve high and rapid growth in production by effectively using the existing economic foundation. Today when our national economy has entered a very high stage, the role and significance of the technological revolution are very great. Today, apart from the technological revolution, we cannot produce more modern means of technology nor can we advance our economy even one step forward.

Because our economic construction is synonymous with the technological revolution and the technological revolution is precisely the lifeline of economic construction, if our science and technology are backward, consequently, economic construction is also backward. If our economy and technology are backward, we cannot smoothly solve not only the political and economic task assigned to the party and the revolution, that is, the problem of emancipating the working people from difficult and arduous labor, but also the problem of effectively utilizing the country's resources and of strengthening the self-reliant national economy.

The technological revolution is a powerful weapon to enhance the superiority of our chuche socialism and to smash the imperialists' maneuvers against socialism at present. Today, when the imperialists are viciously perpetrating the maneuvers against socialism—slandering it—it is very important to effect a turn in science, technology, and economic construction.

We have the outstanding socialist system and the popular masses' ideological consciousness is very high, but only when we promote the level of science, technology, and economic development can we surely win victory in the competition with capitalsm.

The technological revolution is the lifeline of socialist economic construction because it is an important factor that makes it possible to demonstrate, at present, our people's high national pride and honor at the highest plane. Under the wise leadership of the party and the leader, the most superior socialism which has embodied the chuche idea has been provided in our country today. Foreign friends who visit our country envy it, saying that "we don't like the capitalism of the rich-get-richer and the poor-get-poorer; we like socialism the Korean way."

When our people accelerate the technological revolution and, thus, effect a turn in the development of technology, the honor of our country's socialism will be more glorious. We have the firm foundation of self-reliant national economy and a large army of 1.46 million intellectuals. When we correctly and properly mobilize and utilize this economic potential and scientific and technological force, we cannot only rapidly enhance our scientific and technological level and strengthen the economic might of the country, but also more highly demonstrate our people's dignity and honor. Indeed, vigorously accelerating the technological revolution is the decisive guarantee for successfully carrying out socialist economic construction and is one of the important factors demonstrating the might of the country and the pride and honor of our people.

In his historic policy speech, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song extensively elucidated the direction and ways to vigorously carry out the technological revolution. Success in the technological revolution depends emphatically on functionaries' viewpoint toward the technological revolution. Carrying out the technological revolution is not a mere working [silmujok] matter, but is an important political matter that demonstrates the superiority of the socialist system and is related to the might of the country and its future. Therefore, we should not disregard technological development under the pretext of being busy doing the work at hand, and we should not delay the technological revolution even for a little while under various excuses.

As taught by the great leader in his historic policy speech, we should regard the technological revolution as the lifeline of socialist economic construction and should concentrate greater efforts on it. It is more important than anything else to firmly establish in all sectors, units, and outposts, the viewpoint that technological innovation is the only true way to not only further promote the people's material welfare, as called for by the party, but also to glorify the superiority of our socialism and the honor of the country.

The road to occupying the scientific and technological fortress is not smooth and easy. However, for our scientists and technicians—who have been armed with the revolutionary spirit of Paektu—such a phenomenon as the slightest degree of trepidation or leaving work half done cannot be allowed on the rough and perilous road of researching and developing science. Their only duty is to achieve noble and valuable scientific and technological successes through constant speculation and burning disquisition, report with loyalty the successes to the party, and, thus, make great contributions to the fatherland and the people.

The technological revolution is not a task that can be carried out by the efforts of one or two persons. Only when the entire party and all the people actively participate in the technological revolution can we successfully accelerate the revolution. In particular, since we need to more rapidly carry out the technological revolution, we should mobilize the creative efforts of all working people to the maximum.

In his policy speech, the great leader taught that the technological revolution should become a creative movement of the masses themselves. The main force in the accomplishment of the technological revolution is precisely the popular masses. It is the popular masses who create mechanical technology. It is also precisely the popular masses who handle the mechanical technology. The popular masses' strength and wisdom are boundless. Therefore, when their creative wisdom and initiative are fully mobilized, scientific and technological fortresses can be successfully occupied everywhere. To make the technological revolution a creative movement of the popular masses, it is important to further strengthen and develop the shock brigade movement for technological innovation. All functionaries should assist the work of the technological innovation shock brigade in a responsible manner and, thus, should see to it that members of the technological innovation shock brigade become forerunners in the implementation of our party's far-sighted policy of the technological revolution. Our party has demanded that technological mysticism—which is the main obstacle hindering the massive technological innovation movement—be thoroughly rejected, that good experiences be combined with science and technology, and that the creative cooperation of scientists, technicians, and workers be strengthened.

We should see to it that scientists, technicians, and workers share their joys and sorrows, helping and leading each other, so that the might of the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses can be highly displayed in the scientific and technological development, too. The large army of intellectuals, which has been fostered by our party, has played great roles in the development of the country's economy, science, and technology. And the party's trust in and expectation toward them are indeed great.

All of our scientists and technicians should make active efforts to perform their responsibilities and roles for the times and the revolution with infinite loyalty to the party and the leader, with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, and with the spirit of serving the fatherland and the people. Thus, they should achieve more world-famous inventions and valuable scientific research successes which can make contributions to the scientific and technological development of the country.

Today, our party has set the high goal of developing our science and technology up to the world level and is calling on the entire party and all the people to participate in the movement to achieve the goal. We should more vigorously accelerate the technological revolution, upholding the intent of the party and, thus, should see to it that new scientific inventions and technological innovation suggestions are presented everywhere. Thus, we should effect the constant upsurge of production and construction amid the flames of massive technological innovation and brilliantly record the significant 1990s with an outstanding success of the technological revolution.

Technical Colleges Mark 30-Year Anniversary

SK1609090990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0811 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 16 (KCNA)—The Kiyang, Chongjin, Hungnam, Musan, Kangson and Nampo Colleges of Technology, study-while-working educational institutions, marked their 30th founding anniversary.

Congratulatory messages of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea were conveyed at the meetings of the teachers and students held at the colleges on this occasion.

Noting that over the past three decades after the founding the colleges have covered a road of fruitful efforts under the guidance of the party and the leader and creditably discharged their duty, the messages said they, upholding the "Theses on Socialist Education", have trained a large number of able technicians fully prepared politically and ideologically and equipped with a high degree of science and technology by energetically carrying out the educational work in conformity with the basic principle of socialist pedagogy and the characteristics of the study-while-working institution.

The messages pointed out that the colleges have closely linked theoretical education with practical education, intensified researches for solving knotty scientific and technical problems and presented many treaties and technical innovation proposals so as to greatly contribute to increasing production and developing technology.

They highly estimated the great achievements made by the teachers and students of the colleges in the training of technical personnel by displaying fidelity to the party and the leader and devotion to the socialist homeland.

In their reports the leading officials of the colleges said the great leader President Kim Il-song who had founded the original idea and policy of education saw to it that factory colleges were founded in keeping with the developing reality, and established their educational system and clearly indicated their orientation.

They stressed that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, with a deep insight into the development of the national economy and the requirements of the intellectualization of the whole society, took steps to found colleges at factories, enterprises, rural communities and fishing villages by further developing the study-while-working higher educational system, and opened up a broad prospect for enhancing the scientific and theoretical level of the college education and realising the intellectualization of the whole society in the near future.

Letters of pledge were adopted at the meetings.

Fruit Growers Predict Bumper Harvest This Year

SK1509102090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 15 (KCNA)—South Hwanghae Province, a major fruit producer in the western part of Korea, looks ahead to a bumper harvest this year again. Many orchards in the province will pick 30 to 40 tons of apples and pears from each hectare.

The Kwail County combined fruit farm will produce this year more than twice as much fruits as were produced in the northern half of Korea before the country's liberation.

The province holds a big share in the nation's fruit production.

Apples hold the first place in the fruit production of the province. Various kinds of apples such as Pukchong, Hwangju, Songhwa and Spice are produced in large quantities on the apple farm covering nearly 10,000 hectares in and around Kwail County.

There is also a pear farm of more than 10,000 hectares where 30 to 40 tons of pear is being picked per hectare. Scores of species of pears include Chongdan, Haeju, Wonsan, Moran, Red, and Gourd. Every year, Paechon County produces nearly 30,000 tons of pears, Chongdan County 25,000 tons and Yonan County 18,000 tons.

Persimmon is one of the specialties of the province. It is foreseen that 15 tons on an average, 30 tons at maximum, will be picked per hectare on the persimmon farms in Kangnyong, Ongjin and Yongyon peninsulas.

In Chongdan, Yonan, Paechon, and Pongchon areas along the coastal line from Haeju, there extends nearly 2,600 hectares of forests of large chestnut trees which are bearing fruit now.

Construction of Tongil Street Houses Accelerated

SK1609010490 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Overflowing with faith and optimism to achieve victory, the combatants of the Pyongyang youth construction division of the Sosong district regiment—who have come out to welcome the 45th anniversary of the foundation of the party with brilliant innovative results—are vigorously accelerating the construction of 18 storied dwellings for 170 households in District No. 2, section two, blocks four and five on Tongil Street.

Compared with the previous month, in August they overfulfilled the plan to assemble the houses by one and a half times. This month, they assembled 26 houses in just one week.

Each battalion of this regiment is skillfully implementing work plans, giving priority to the aggregate production and greatly accelerating the construction of the houses.

Finance Officials Visit Site

SK1409111990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Financial and bank bookkeeping functionaries from each district visited the construction site of Tongil Street—which is overflowing with resolution to greet the 45th anniversary of the founding of the party with lofty political zeal and brilliant labor exploits.

Carrying support materials and their best wishes, the financial and bank bookkeeping functionaries rushed to the construction site of Tongil Street, which is being splendidly built and changed day by day beyond recognition, according to the party's magnificent capital construction plan.

At the construction site of Tongil Street, Kim Yang, reporter of the Central Broadcasting Station, interviewed Kim Yong-il, deputy director of the General Financial Planning Bureau in the Finance Ministry, and Chong Myong-ki, who comes from Changjin County, South Hamgyong Province. [passage omitted]

Cuban Ambassador Assists

SK1509051190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 15 (KCNA)—Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega and his embassy officials gave a helping hand in the construction of Tongil Street on September 14.

They did concrete tamping with builders at the construction site of the modern street of grand scale being built according to our party's far-reaching plan of the construction of the capital.

During the break they deepened friendly feelings, singing Korean and Cuban songs together with builders.

The ambassador said they were glad to do what little they could for the construction of Tongil Street.

The Cuban and Korean peoples have always struggled side by side under the leadership of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz and Comrade Kim Il-song, he said, and added: We will help in the construction of Tongil Street in the future, too.

People Greet Anniversary With Higher Production

SK1709103590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 17 (KCNA)—Working people in Korea are greeting the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea (October 10) with a high degree of political enthusiasm and great achievements of labor.

Industrial establishments in different branches of the national economy are creating labor gifts on the occasion of the party founding anniversary.

The Kim Chong-tae electrical locomotive complex is expediting the production of new-type 7,000 HP 8-axle electrical locomotives, tramcars and urban electrical trains. The workers there have increased the processing speed 1.5 times, have assembled scores of railway coaches and are making preparations for the wholesale assembling of 8-axle electrical locomotives.

Metal industrial bases including the Chollima steel complex and the Kim Chaek iron and steel complex lifted the steel and rolled steel output respectively by 10 and 21.4 percent entering September compared with the like period last year.

Hydraulic power stations under the power industry commission these days are carrying out daily production quotas at 110 percent.

The Taean heavy machine complex is overfulfilling by 30 percent on a daily average the plans for the production of ordered equipment needed for the second-stage construction of the Sunchon vinalon complex, for the construction of the Sariwon potassic fertilizer complex and dwelling houses for 50,000 families in Pyongyang, for the expansion project of the Musan mining complex and the construction of the Chongjin thermal power station, the December thermal power station and other projects.

The Sangwon cement complex which last month recorded an all-time high in production since it started operation is now expanding its success this month, too. The June 13 coal mine is carrying out its daily production plan at 120 percent. Besides, innovations are being effected in the mining, chemical and light industries and railway transport.

The Chongnam export garment factory and the Hamyon coal mine have been commissioned and the Taegon-Pongchang-Hannyong railway electrification project has been completed.

Rural communities have brought bumper crops even under the unfavorable weather conditions this year. This year the average per-hectare yield of paddy rice and maize is expected to increase respectively by 1 and 1.4 tons in North Hwanghae Province as against last year, taking the province as a whole.

Now the agricultural working people are doing maize harvest on a full-fledged scale.

Students March From Chongil Peak to Pyongyang

SK1509080990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] An excursion group consisting of university students from across the country walked from Chongil Peak to Yongnam Hill and yesterday arrived in Pyongyang, the capital of the revolution.

The university students from across the country, who began their march after holding a starting meeting on 22 August in front of Chongil Peak at the Mt. Paektu secret camp, that is, the historic sacred site of the revolution, have traversed a 2,000-ri-long course toward Yongnam Hill in Pyongyang from which a pledge of history to make Korea shine echoed all over the world.

After visiting the native home of the Mt. Paektu secret camp where dear Comrade Kim Chong-il was born, they dropped in at revolutionary war and historical sites in Yanggang Province, including Chongbong, Konchang, Imyongsu, and Pochonbo; at revolutionary historical sites in Chagang Province, including Mt. Changja; and at revolutionary sites in North and South Pyongyang Provinces. In this course, they appreciatively commemorated the glorious and brilliant revolutionary history and immortal revolutionary feats of our party.

Hearing that the excursion group would arrive in the capital, university students stood along the streets from the entrance of Yonmottong to the Kim Il-song University campus at Mt. Yongnam Hill. The students warmly welcomed the excursion group members.

At the foot of Mt. Yongnam, Kim Il-song University students warmly greeted the members of the glorious excursion march with a brass band and bouquets.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's immortal farsighted intention, given at the Kim Il-song University, to glorify Korea all over the world, according to the great leader's lofty will, all the students who warmly welcomed the excursion group were brimming over with loyalty and burning verve to further arm themselves as reliable young vanguards for the Workers' Party of Korea.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Youths should cherish loyalty to the party as a revolutionary faith, uphold the party's leadership, and resolutely defend the party politically and ideologically with their lives in the face of any storm or ordeal.

The entire excursion course, from Chongil Peak to Yongnam Hill, traveled by the university students from across the country, was a glorious march. In this course, new generations have more firmly armed themselves with our party's ideology and theory and trained themselves to be firm willed and highly organized and disciplined, so as to brilliantly complete the chuche-oriented revolutionary cause, generation after generation under the banner of the red flag of the revolution according to the party.

The university students from across the country climbed Yongnam Hill and laid a basket of flowers before the bronze statue of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

They also held a rally to pledge loyalty. The rally was attended by functionaries concerned with members of the excursion group and students of Kim Il-song University. The "Song of General Kim Il-song" was played to begin the rally.

The university students pledged loyalty at the call led by Kim Song-chol, vice chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea.

Recalling the historical pledge taken 30 years ago by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il at Yongnam Hill, the university students from across the country vigorously chanted slogans, including "Let Us Become Reliable Young Vanguards for the Workers' Party of Korea."

The rally ended with the song "We Are Personal Guards and Shock Brigade Members."

South Korea

Last-Minute Change Led North to Seoul Talks

SK1409111190 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 1000 GMT 14 Sept 90

[Text] It has been learned that North Korea first had decided not to participate in the first round of the North-South High-Level Talks held in Seoul on 4 September. However, it abruptly changed its plan to attend the talks shortly before they took place.

In a meeting on changes in the international situation and on the future path for the North-South, which was arranged by the Korea Regional Policy Research Institute, Song Han-ho, vice minister of the National Unification Board, said that one of the North Korean delegates revealed that North Korea first had decided not to come to Seoul, but President Kim Il-song directed them to attend the talks shortly before the talks. Thus, the delegates of North Korea abruptly came to Seoul, without preparing gifts.

And Vice Minister Song revealed that one of the North Korean reporters, who had been staying in Japan, was directed at the last minute to cover the Seoul talks, and thus joined in North Korean reporter group just in time.

UN Ambassador Comments on Membership Issue

SK1709021590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0205 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] New York, Sept. 16 (YONHAP)—Amb. Hyon Hong-chu, head of the South Korean Observer Mission to the United Nations, indicated Sunday his government may apply for U.N. membership this year.

"The government has yet to decide whether to file an application this year or later, but we at the United Nations are ready whatever the government's decision is," he said.

With the opening of the 45th U.N. General Assembly only two days away, Hyon said South Korea would have to choose "an independent road" to the United Nations if it fails to reach an agreement with North Korea "although it is most desirable to settle the U.N. membership issue through inter-Korean agreement."

During talks between the South and North Korean prime ministers in Seoul on Sept. 5-6, North Korea proposed that the two sides discuss U.N. membership in a working-level meeting.

Liaison officers from the two sides agreed last week to hold the meeting Tuesday at the truce village of Panmunjom.

South Korea has long held the position that it will seek to be admitted to the United Nations alone if the North does not agree to simultaneous entry. The North has suggested the two parts of Korea share a single seat in the world body.

"South-North Korean relations are one thing, and our bid for U.N. Membership is another. South-North relations are bilateral but U.N. Membership pertains to relations between the applying country and an international organization called the United Nations," the ambassador said.

"We need to take note of the result of the inter-Korean working-level meeting (on U.N. membership) and other changes in circumstances, but such changes should not and cannot restrict the Republic of Korea's search for U.N. membership," Hyon said.

He said he believed South Korea's bid for U.N. Membership would gain broad support and showed his disapproval of the North Korean call for sharing a single seat in the United Nations.

"Almost all U.N. members are aware that the Republic of Korea is a peace-loving, sovereign nation that will abide by the U.N. charter," Hyon said. "What can South and North Korea do with a single seat in the United Nations under the present circumstances when the two sides have almost no agreement on major issues?"

Sports Talks May Resume During Asian Games

SK1709031590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0302 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Beijing, Sept. 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—Discussions between South and North Korea are expected during the Asian games, which open here on Saturday for 16 days, as the two sides have appointed former delegates to the inter-Korean sports talks as officials of their Asiad contingents.

The inter-Korean sports talks, on forming a single Korean team to the Asiad, fell apart seven months ago, at the final stage of agreement.

South Korea appointed Chang Chung-sik, a former chief delegate to the sports talks, head of its team and Yi Hak-nae, a former delegate, as a manager on the men's squad.

The North Korean squad includes Chang Ung, secretary-general of the (North) Korean Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Committee and a delegate to the sports talks.

Kim Hyong-chin, who headed the North Korean delegates to the talks, has arrived here separately.

The purpose of Kim's visit is to attend a conference, but the presence of the former South and North Korean chief delegates is significant, sports figures here say.

South Korean attaches in Beijing say it would be natural for South and North Korean sports figures to contact each other during the Asian games, but claim to know nothing about talks between the two Koreas.

Government May Allow PPD To Visit North

SK1409115890 Seoul YONHAP in English 1148 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 14 (OANA-YONHAP)—Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun hinted Friday the government may consider allowing an opposition party delegation to visit North Korea if it is requested, an official of the party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) said.

"I will consider it on a forward-looking basis," Kang was quoted as replying to PPD leader Kim Tae-chung's request for the government's cooperation in sending a PPD delegation to Pyongyang to discuss inter-Korean matters.

The request was made during Kang's briefing to the opposition leader on the results of inter-Korean prime ministers' talks last week in Seoul, the official said.

Kim told Kang that his party would consider dispatching the delegation to the North if the second round of the premiers' talks due in October in Pyongyang goes smoothly, and asked for the government's cooperation, according to the official.

But Kang indicated that the government would not release dissidents who were arrested for clandestine visits to the north, including the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and student activist Yim Su-kyong, despite calls for their release by the opposition party as well as North Korea, the official said.

In a news conference earlier in the day, the PPD president, when asked whether he plans to visit Pyongyang, said that his party will examine whether to send a delegation to the North after seeing the results of the next round of the high-level talks.

"As for myself, I will ask for a visit to Pyongyang only when I am convinced that it contributes to inter-Korean reconciliation and materialization of summit talks between the South and the North," Kim said.

North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk, in a dinner during his visit to Seoul last week, reminded Kim of the fact that he has a standing invitation from North Korean President Kim Il-song.

Plan for Citizens To Visit North Reported

SK1609012190 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 14 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Tokyo correspondent Pang In-chol]

[Text] A Tokyo source well versed in North Korean affairs said on 14 September that North Korea was considering a plan to allow South Korean tourists, who are going to watch the Asian Gamesin Beijing, to visit North Korea.

This source also said that, in connection with this, North Korea had issued visas for Lotte Tourist Company Chairman Kim Ki-pyong and four other officials for visits to North Korea and that the group led by Chairman Kim will visit Pyongyang on and around 14 September to sign a final contract with North Korea.

This source also said that Hong Kong's Zhongwai Tourist Company, which is organizing trips to North Korea as a middleman, confirmed this report and said that Lotte Tourist Company and Zhongwai Tourist Company signed a contract on this project in late June this year.

This source also said by the contract North Korea will receive up to 3,000 South Korean tourists on and around the period of the Beijing Asian games, two Chinese planes will be chartered to carry 300 tourists a day, efforts will be made for the tourists to return to South Korea via Panmunjom, tourists will spend $100 a day, will tour North Korea according to a North Korean itinerary, and will not request meetings with their separated families.

This source went on to say that, as stipulated by the contract, Zhongwai Tourist Company had asked the North Korean General Tourism Bureau to invite the Lotte Tourist Company officials to North Korea to make an on-site inspection and that, as a result, Chairman Kim and other officials had received a letter of invitation in late August.

This source added that trips to North Korea by South Korean tourists were arranged in accordance with President No Tae-u's "grand national exchange plan" and that, because North Korea has assumed a positive attitude to this project, it is very likely that this project can be realized.

In connection with this, Lotte Tourist Company said that "Chairman Kim left the country on 12 September to handle business concerning Tonghwa Duty Free Shop and is now staying in Paris" and that "we do not know anything about rumors on visits to North Korea by South Korean tourists to the Asian Games and rumors on negotiations with the North Korean side."

Dissident's Request for Pyongyang Visit Rejected

SK1509024390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0217 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 15 (OANA-YONHAP)—A leading South Korean dissident said Friday he wants to visit Pyongyang in November for talks with North Korean leader Kim Il-song and asked the government to clarify its position on his planned trip.

But the government rejected the bid as inappropriate and hardly conducive to inter-Korean discussions on unification.

Paek Ki-wan, head of the Institute of Unification Affairs who ran for the 1987 presidential election as a self-proclaimed candidate of the masses, said he wants to make a 20-day visit to Pyongyang, along with more than 200 people representing various social strata, from Nov. 20.

In a letter sent to the National Unification Ministry, Paek also said he wants to meet with the North Korean president for a political consultative talks as well as with North Korean specialists for comprehensive discussions on the reality of national division in political, economic, social, military and cultural fields.

Paek said he believes his meeting with Kim Il-song and talks between South and North Koreans representing various circles and classes will decisively help bring an epoch-making progress in the unification matter, while asking the government not to suppress or hinder his move for the trip to the North.

Paek, along with politicians including Kim Tae-chung, has a standing invitation from Kim Il-song. In his New

Year address in January, the North Korean leader invited the South Koreans for the political consultative conference, on which the North placed priority rather than inter-Korean summit talks which President No Tae-u proposed, to discuss unification of the Korean peninsula, which was divided at the end of World War II in 1945.

"Let me know whether the government will block my way to the North or not," Paek said in the letter.

But a Unification Board official said an individual's initiative for unification talks with the North is inappropriate and hardly contributing to unification efforts at a time when the two sides have been engaged in prime ministers' talks, virtually rejecting Paek's offer.

As for inter-Korean talks for unification, the government has insisted it be a sole channel.

But the North, in an apparent bid, according to the government, to confuse the South's unification policy, has contended unification discussions be carried out by the two governments as well as representatives of various walks of life from both halves of the peninsula.

South Korean dissident groups also call for unification discussions between the masses from the two sides.

In a separate move, the government also rejected a request by Chonminnyon [National Democratic Alliance of Korea], the largest dissident organization, to be allowed contacts with North Koreans for discussions on forming a joint cheering team with North Korea for the 11th Asian Games that opens Sept. 22 in Beijing.

A Unification Board spokesman said Friday it had sent a letter to Chonminnyon turning down its request in connection with a working-level contacts to discuss the idea at the truce village of Panmunjom.

The spokesman said if a joint cheering team was needed, it could be arranged between the mission chiefs of the two teams participating in the Asian games.

Another North, U.S. 'Contact' Reportedly Held

SK1509010190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0041 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Washington, Sept. 14 (YONHAP)—American and North Korean officials were believed to have exchanged views Friday in Beijing on last week's inter-Korean high-level political talks in Seoul, diplomatic observers here said.

"The United States and North Korea held their 12th contact," a state department spokesman said Friday.

"As before, we cannot characterize the contact. If there be any breakthrough in the contacts, we would announce the results," he said. The United States does not have diplomatic relations with North Korea.

Friday's contact was the first in three months and followed the unprecedented high-level talks between South and North Korean prime ministers in Seoul on Sept. 5-6. Counselors at U.S. and North Korean Embassies in Beijing were learned to have represented each side in the contact.

During the contact, North Korea was believed to have explained its position regarding the inter-Korean talks and easing tension on the Korean peninsula and its formula for a single U.N. membership for the two halves of Korea to the U.S. side, according to the observers.

It was also believed that the U.S. side demanded North Korea sign the nuclear safeguard agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency and that North Korea responded by calling for the U.S. guarantee of non-use of nuclear weapons.

DLP Wants Budget To Include Money for Gulf

SK1709052090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0451 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) wants the supplementary budget to include money for the military buildup in the Persian Gulf when the budget bill is submitted to the National Assembly, a party source said Monday.

The source said the DLP has not settled on a sum.

"The United States asked for 100 million dollars, but we can afford a little less than that," the source said.

The source said the DLP decided to share the defense burden after being briefed by Deputy Prime Minister Yi Sung-yun Saturday.

Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung told visiting U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Desaix Anderson and two other U.S. officials Monday that inter-ministerial consultations were under way concerning the defense cost sharing.

Choe told the U.S. officials that his government will have to minimize its share of the Gulf burden because of the economic difficulties incurred by a recent flood, which claimed over a hundred lives.

Anderson arrived Saturday for what Korean Foreign Ministry officials described as "routine bilateral consultation."

He is accompanied by Karl Jackson, special assistant to the president for national security and senior director for Asian affairs on the National Security Council, and Carl Ford, deputy assistant secretary of defense for East Asia and Pacific affairs.

Jackson and Ford leave Monday and Anderson Wednesday.

Developing Relations With China, USSR Viewed

SK1709090090 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 17 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] It has been learned that China and the Soviet Union are jointly persuading North Korea to respond to North-South dialogue and to gradually pursue the policy of opening. It was also revealed that the Soviet Union and China directly notified North Korean President Kim Il-song and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam of the inevitability of improving such practical relations as with the ROK, either by establishing diplomatic relations or by exchanging consular offices in the near future.

On 17 September, a high-level diplomatic source said that "Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze recently informed us of the Soviet position—which he explained to Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam on the improvement of ROK-USSR relations when he visited Pyongyang on 2 September—and of North Korea's reaction to this." He noted that "the Soviet Union regards the establishment of diplomatic relations with the ROK as an established fact based on President Gorbachev's policy of reform and opening. It is also based on the changing international situation. The Soviet Union explained to North Korea that such a policy will be conducive to easing tension on the Korean peninsula and will benefit the national interests of both North and South Korea. The Soviet Union stressed that the resolution of internal questions through direct dialogue between North and South Korea is desirable."

According to the source, Shevardnadze's visit to Pyongyang was paid without prior specific consultations with the North Korean authorities. The date of his visit was decided unilaterally. Thus, the North Korean side rejected the Soviet request for meeting with President Kim Il-song, and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam treated him coldly. As a result of this, the atmosphere of talks was very difficult. It was also learned that in particular, Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, on being notified of the Soviet plan to establish diplomatic relations with the ROK and of the Soviet decision on a hard currency settlement system for its oil to North Korea, made a strong protest to Shevardnadze.

It has been learned that before visiting Pyongyang, Shevardnadze visited Beijing and explained to the Chinese side the Soviet position toward North Korea, and that an agreement was reached on broadening the fields of cooperation in connection with North Korea's opening and their policies toward the ROK.

Because of this, China informed North Korea that the visit of President Kim Il-song to Beijing, which was requested immediately after Shevardnadze's visit to Pyongyang, was not appropriate in terms of time, thus showing its disapproval. China then proposed that if he indeed wanted to visit, that he meet with relevant officials of the Chinese side in Shenyang or its vicinity in Manchuria.

It was also revealed that the Chinese side informed our government of President Kim Il-song's visit to Shenyang in advance through unofficial channels and that the Soviet Union also confirmed to our government his visit.

The Chinese side has not admitted that the high-level Chinese official who met with President Kim Il-song in Shenyang is President [as published] Jiang Zemin. The speculation that Foreign Minister Qian Qichen met Kim Il-song instead is more reliable.

It has been learned that President Kim demanded that China check the independent entry of the ROK into the United Nations, prudent dealing with oil supplies, and establishment of diplomatic relations with the ROK. To this demand, China explained its position that in terms of the new trend of the international situation, it is inevitable for China to establish bilateral relations with the ROK in the form of exchanging consular offices after the Asian Games, just as the Soviet Union did with the ROK.

It was revealed that China also explained that the establishment of organizations, whether they be called consular offices or trade missions, which will deal with practical relations with consular affairs as their main work, is inevitable. China pointed out that at a time when the establishment of ROK-USSR diplomatic relations is near at hand, China's previous position on its relations with North and South Korea is unrealistic.

Official Ties With Soviets To Be Established

SK1709054790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0458 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the Soviet Union will issue an official statement on the establishment of their diplomatic relations during a meeting of the Korean and Soviet foreign ministers in New York Sept. 26, the NAEWOE Press, Seoul's watcher of communist affairs, quoted Radio Moscow as saying Monday.

The news was contained in a report on the second anniversary of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's Krasnoyarsk Address, NAEWOE said.

Radio Moscow said it was the Soviet Government's position that the opening of Soviet-South Korean relations would help alleviate tension in the Asia-Pacific region and act favorably on North Korea, leading to settlement of the Korean problem.

It said the address was the starting point for advances in Seoul-Moscow relations and reported in detail on recent progress such as Soviet participation in the Seoul Olympics, the opening of consular departments and the South Korean-Soviet summit meeting.

Two years ago, Gorbachev declared in Krasnoyarsk that the Soviet Union included itself among the Asian and Pacific nations and was willing to improve relations with any nation in the region, including South Korea.

Aviation Pact Already Initialed

SK1509085890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0853 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the Soviet Union initialed an aviation agreement in Moscow Friday, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

Kim Sam-hun, director general of the ministry's International Trade Bureau, and L. Svedentsov [as received], Soviet Civil Aviation Ministry's deputy director general, reached an agreement on the wording of the agreement in their three-day meeting, the spokesman said.

The initialing of the official agreement is significant in that it provides legal basis to a bilateral commercial aviation accord concluded between Korean Air (KAL) and Soviet Aeroflot in February this year, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The two governments also decided to have working-level contacts to discuss matters concerning arrangement of air routes, designation of airlines, and plans to increase passenger service flights and start cargo services between the two countries.

Trade Agreement Also Initialed

SK1709083590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0529 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the Soviet Union have initialed a trade agreement containing a guarantee of most-favored nation treatment, virtually eliminating institutional obstacles to economic and trade cooperation.

The trade pact between the two governments, which have yet to establish diplomatic ties, is virtual recognition and a prelude to full ties, analysts said Monday.

Under the agreement, which is expected to be formally signed this year, the two nations will grant each other most-favored nation treatment in all matters relating to bilateral trade of goods and services.

This includes customs duties, customs clearance, taxes, charges of any kind and international transfer of payments related to bilateral trade.

The two countries will not discriminate against each other in applying quantitative restrictions in imports, granting trade licenses and allocating the currency needed to pay for such imports. Neither will impose restrictions on the transfer of freely convertible currencies. It also covers freedom of access to and use of ports and providing branch offices of businesses and their staff with all housing, communications and other necessities.

The two countries also agreed in principle to have separate discussions on exchanging trade representatives in accordance with progress in negotiations on normalizing diplomatic ties. It will be the first treaty between the two nations since the 1884 treaty of friendship and commerce, which was annulled in 1904 with the breakout of war between Russia and Japan.

The two countries exchanged trade offices in each other's capital in April last year and consular departments with limited consular functions in February this year.

Despite growing trade between the two countries, Korean businessmen complain there are many barriers to the promotion of economic cooperation and exchange due to a lack of formal agreements on trade, prevention of double taxation and investment protection.

Two-way trade reached 599.4 million U.S. dollars in 1989, a roughly 20-fold increase from 30 million dollars in 1981, and is expected to surpass 1 billion dollars this year. During the first half of the year, exports were 200.7 million dollars and imports 166.3 million dollars, giving Korea a trade surplus of more than 30 million dollars. The surplus was attributed to the Soviet Union's massive purchases of consumer goods, such as electronic home appliances.

The Soviet Union will be the sixth communist nation with trade agreements with Seoul. South Korea has already signed trade agreements with Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Romania.

The initialing of the trade agreement came amid rapid moves to normalize ties between Seoul and Moscow, especially since a historic summit meeting between Presidents No Tae-u and Mikhail Gorbachev in San Francisco on June 4.

Foreign ministers from the two countries are scheduled to talk for the first time in New York and are expected to agree on the timing and procedure of establishing full ties, which is seen by diplomatic observers as "just a matter of time."

Samsung, Soviets Sign '500-Million-Dollar Deal'

SK1509075090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0743 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 15 (YONHAP)—Samsung Electronics Co. concluded a 500 million-dollar deal on Saturday with a Soviet trade mission visiting South Korea to export major electronic products to Moscow, the company has said.

A spokesman said Samsung has signed a 500 million-dollar contract with a six-member delegation led by the Soviet Electronic Industry Minister V.G. Kolesnikov.

The two sides were also known to have agreed in principle to promote a project for supplying the Soviet Union with 1 billion dollars worth of videotape recorders, electronic ranges and other products soon.

The Soviets promised to promote joint ventures with Samsung and strengthen mutual cooperation in overseas markets and offer advanced Soviet technology, the spokesman said.

Samsung started direct exports to the country in April 1989 and shipped 150 million dollars worth of electronic appliances during the first six months of this year.

Choe Likely To Meet PRC Counterpart at UN

SK1709120590 Seoul YONHAP in English 1153 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung is likely to have an informal meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen later this month at the United Nations Headquarters and discuss matters of common concern, including improvement of bilateral relations and inter-Korean dialogue, an official source here said Monday.

The official said that South Korean ambassador to the U.N. Hyon Hong-chu and his Chinese counterpart, Li Daoli, will meet with each other earlier next week to discuss matters concerning this meeting.

The source said the Chinese Government has given a favorable response to a recent South Korean proposal to have an unofficial meeting between Choe and Qian during the U.N. General Assembly period. If realized, the meeting is expected to be made on Sept. 28 or Sept. 29, he added.

Minister Choe himself has recently said he would not rule out the possibility that he may meet with Qian in a "natural" encounter.

Both Choe and Qian are also to attend a dinner of the foreign ministers from Asian countries to be hosted by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Sept. 27.

Regular Inchon-PRC Ferry Service Launched

SK1509061490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0540 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 15 (YONHAP)—A regular ferry service was launched on Saturday between South Korea's western port of Inchon and Weihai on the Shandong peninsula, bridging the West Sea for the first time since mainland China was communized.

Weidong Car Ferry Corp., a 50-50 joint venture between two Chinese firms and six Korean firms, had the 'Golden Bridge' set sail off the western port city of Inchon Saturday afternoon with 130 government officials and Inchon citizens in a launching ceremony, according to the Korea Maritime and Port Administration [KMPA].

A similar launching ceremony will be held at Weihai on Sept. 16 after the ferryboat arrives at the Chinese port and about 100 Chinese officials and citizens will be aboard on its return trip to Inchon on Sept. 17, KMPA officials said.

The 4,317-ton class ferryboat, which can accomodate 480 passengers along with cargos of 131 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU), will leave Inchon on Wednesdays and Saturdays and leave Weihai on Mondays and Sundays, the officials said.

It will take 17 hours to sail from Inchon to Weihai and 19 hours from Weihai to Inchon. The special class cabin costs 150 dollars for a one-way trip, first class 130 dollars, and second class 110 dollars. The VIP cabin costs 400 dollars and the bedroom cabin 200 dollars, respectively, they said.

Due to lack of diplomatic ties between the countries, the ship will fly Panamanian flag and the visas for the Koreans bound for China will be issued on the ship and Chinese tourists bound for Korea would apply for visas at travel agencies commissioned by Weidong Car Ferry Corp.

The ferryboat, however, would not carry cars for the time being until the two governments reach a compromise on the matter.

With the service opened, the mutual exchanges of tourists will be galvanized, contributing to advancing the normalization of the Korea-China ties, and about 1.6 million Koreans living in the northeastern provinces of China will have easier access to their mother country.

The time needed for the transportation of container cargos will be shortened to two days from five days thanks to the direct sea route. Currently, the maritime cargo transportation between the two countries relies on a detour via Hong Kong. The delivery fare will also be saved by 80 percent, according to the KMPA officials.

Meanwhile, in forging the one-million-dollar joint veture for the ferry service, two Chinese firms—the Shandong branch of China National Foreign Trade Transportation Corp and Weihai Joint Stock Shipping Co.—collaborated with five shipping firms and a bank from Korea.

The Korean partners are Yukong Line, Pan Continental Shipping Co., Dongwon Fisheries Co., Korea Long-Term Credit Bank, Dongnama Shipping Co. and Pacific Cruise Ferry Inc.

Chinese Airline To Help Transport Spectators

SK1509063090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0612 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 15 (YONHAP)—Air China will fly South Korean spectators to the 11th Asian Games in Beijing along with the Korean Air (KAL) and Asiana Airlines, Korean Transportation Ministry officials said Saturday.

They said Air China would transport 1,230 South Koreans or 22 percent of the total South Korean spectators of the Beijing Games from Monday through Oct. 10

on a total of 20 flights. The air route will link Seoul and Beijing or Seoul and Tenjin.

The officials said the ministry had given the permission to fly Korean spectators to the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) on the condition that Air China will raise the insurance premium for each spectator to the level paid by Korean airline companies.

Air China's 20 flights will be set aside from the 53 flights KAL has originally planned to run around the games period. KAL has conveyed the CAAC's hope to participate in the transport of Korean spectators to the ministry early this month.

Kal is seeking to open direct air routes between South Korea and China and to fly over the Chinese airspace.

Travel agents here say the operation of Air China may cause complaints among Koreans planning an Asiad trip, as they prefer flying the national flag carrier to foreign airlines.

'Large-Scale' Investment in China Being Avoided

SK1409070990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0652 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 14 (YONHAP)—The amount that South Korean businesses have invested and plan to invest in China has reached 134.2 million U.S. dollars in 68 projects since 1985, International Private Economic Council of Korea (IPECK) said Friday.

The amount was made by 61 Korean firms since 1985, when they started investments indirectly through their locally-incorporated businesses in Hong Kong and by the direct investments made since 1988, according to the statistics compiled by IPECK, the government-approved window in trading with communist nations.

Investments less than one million dollars accounted for 44.1 percent (13.94 million dollars) of the total projects, those over one million dollars and less than three million dollars occupying 42.6 percent (46.1 million dollars), those over three million and less than five million taking 5.9 percent (14.17 million dollars) and those over five million dollars taking 7.4 percent (60 million dollars).

According to the data, investments below three million dollars accounted for 86.7 percent out of the total, and it shows that South Korean businesses are avoiding large-scale investments chiefly due to the lack of diplomatic ties.

By province, Guangdong and Fujian provinces, four cities of which China designated as the special economic zone in 1980 to induce foreign investments, topped in the list absorbing 15 South Korean investments (18.433 million dollars).

Shandong, Hebei and Liaoning provinces came next with 14 investments (15.609 million dollars), followed by Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces with two investments (807,000 dollars) and Jiangxi province with one (4.272 million dollars).

The manufacturing sector, featured by textiles and apparel, dominated the total investment with 79.4 percent at 54 projects.

Japan Accused of Unfair Business Competition

SK1709030190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korean businessmen are unhappy with the tactics being allegedly used by their Japanese rivals to preserve their technological edge, and accuse them of dumping and trying to start up local production whenever Korean firms develop competitive items.

Japanese corporate attempts to safeguard profits and slow the technological development of Korean firms have been reported often over the last several years, but many Korean firms concealed it for fear of further damage, industrial sources said Monday.

Fears of further damage are based upon the fact that these Korean firms depend upon Japan for their raw materials and could be hurt if the Korean Government took punitive measures, even filed suit, against their Japanese suppliers.

A typical example is found in a Japanese firm's response to the development of a thermal printer head, an indispensable component of facsimiles, by Samsung Electronics Co.

As soon as Samsung began making the heads in June, after a 35 billion-won (48.95 million U.S. dollars) investment over three years, Rohm of Japan lowered its prices to 35 dollars apiece from 55 dollars to 60 dollars and is projected to go down to 30 dollars.

Rohm then tried to begin production in Korea by having a locally-incorporated firm, Rohm Korea, apply to introduce the technology. It was reportedly turned down, under heavy local pressure, because such a measure would deal a sharp blow to Korean technological development.

It is not known if Rohm has dropped its plan for production in Korea.

Annual domestic demand for the part is 150,000 pieces, and is expected to grow over 60 percent annually as demand for office automation equipment surges.

Japanese firms, the sources said, pushed Korean firms to the brink of bankruptcy several years ago with dumping offensives when the Korean firms succeeded in developing convergence technology and connectors, a crucial component in color television sets.

It is highly important for the two countries to strengthen cooperation in technology transfer and development now that Japan shows signs of forbidding transfer of the technologies of 200 crucial parts to Korea and as Japanese firms try to nip Korean technological development in the bud through dumping, the sources said.

Mahathir Calls for Maintenance of Free Trade

BK1309072990 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir says it is necessary for both Malaysia and South Korea to help sustain a free and open trading system at bilateral and regional levels. He says while both countries continue to search for ways to enhance the security of the Asia-Pacific region, it must not be forgotten that protectionism and economic and trade friction pose an even greater danger to the region. If no agreement is reached and the causes and solution found, a free trade system, which is responsible for the region's prosperity, will suffer. Managed trade or purely bilateral approaches are not a viable solution.

The prime minister said this at a dinner given in his honor by the South Korean president, No Tae-u, in Seoul. He also said Malaysia and its ASEAN partners are committed to regional peace and stability through cooperation and close consultations. Malaysia is happy that South Korea's relationship with ASEAN has now been institutionalized at the sectoral dialogue level. It is Malaysia's hope that this will lead to further economic collaboration between ASEAN and South Korea.

South Korea, in the meantime, has called for a joint partnership with Malaysia to contribute toward regional and world peace. President No Tae-u said both countries would develop a model partnership in building a prosperous East Asia. He feels Malaysia and South Korea can share each other's resources, products, technologies, and experiences as well as further broaden understanding, friendship, and cooperation.

Meanwhile, at least 83 people were killed and 52 others missing due to the heavy rains that pounded Seoul and the central region of South Korea for the last three days. The central anti-disaster headquarters said today the downpours which stopped yesterday morning had left 101,601 people homeless. The downpours have damaged 50,055 hectares of rice fields and 19,187 houses.

Urges More Bilateral Trade

BK1309151790 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Speaking to Malaysian journalists, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir said Korea wants to promote cooperation and friendship with Malaysia.

[Begin Mahathir recording] First of all, President No Tae-u agreed that bilateral cooperation and friendship between Malaysia and South Korea should be further promoted. He also agreed to continue with the Look East policy, and agreed on the need for South Korea to buy more oil and gas, and other material from Malaysia. In addition, we agreed that in order to reach a balance of trade, we should receive more goods from South Korea. We also proposed that South Korea hold a goods promotion drive in Malaysia as a way to to balance our bilateral trade. Perhaps South Korea could set up retail outlets, the way Japanese companies are doing in Malaysia. [end recording]

Discusses Investment Opportunities

BK1309133990 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Speaking at a function hosted by Korean businessmen in Seoul, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Malaysia can offer a variety of choices to foreign investors. They can invest in at least five sectors. Among them are the raw material-based industry, the high technology industry, subsidized industry, and the tourism industry.

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia can be the gateway for South Korean industrialists, not only for trade expansion in ASEAN but also for the Pacific region and throughout the world. This is because Malaysia is a member of the Commonwealth, has good relations with nations of the Nonaligned Movement, and is a member of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Minister Yi Yon-taek Meets Malaysian Delegates

SK1409093090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0834 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 14 (YONHAP)—Yi Yon-taek, government administration minister, met with visiting Malaysian officials Friday and exchanged views on administrative systems of the two countries.

The 14-member group is in Seoul as part of an exchange program set up between South Korea and Malaysia in 1984 where government workers visit each other's country for seminars and industrial tours. The twice-a-year program usually lasts about four weeks, and the Korean team is planning to go to Malaysia during winter this year.

Taiwan Agrees To Continue Trade in Fruits

SK1709083790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0716 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Taiwan have agreed to continue their barter trade in Korean apples, pears and Taiwanese bananas even when Korea liberalizes imports of bananas on Jan. 1 next year.

The agreement came in the sixth fruit trade talks between the two nations in Seoul last week, a government spokesman said Monday. Under the agreement, Korea will take 26,000 tons of bananas in return for 5,500 tons of apples and 2,800 tons of pears next year, the same as this year. Korea will separately sell a maximum 3,780 tons of apples to Taiwan, up 5 percent from this year's quota.

Korea can ship the apples between October this year and march next year and the pears between October and Feb. 15.

Korean fruits will be exported through the Korea Export Cooperative of Agriculture and Fishery Food, and bananas will be imported through the Korea Agriculture and Fishery Marketing Corp., the spokesman said.

In the talks, the Korean Government asked Taiwan to either liberalize or increase imports of Korean apples and pears in line with Korea's decision to liberalize imports of tropical fruits.

Taiwan expressed understanding and sympathy with the Korean proposal, promising to positively consider it, the spokesman said. Both nations will meet for the seventh talks in Taipei in August next year.

France Signs Accord for Joint Science Panel

SK1609005490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] Science-Technology Minister Chong Kun-mo and his French counterpart Hubert Curien signed a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of a Korean-French Joint Science and Technology Committee in Paris Friday, the Science-Technology Ministry said yesterday.

In the Korean-French science ministers meeting at the French Research-Technology Ministry, Chong asked Curien for France's cooperation in high technology transfers to Korea as well as exchanges of research personnel.

Chong also visited the French National Science and Research Institute (Centre National de Recherche Scientifique) and signed an agreement for science-technology cooperation between the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF) and CNRS with Francois Kourilsky, CNRS director general, according to the ministry.

Chong will leave Paris for Vienna today to attend the general meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the first World Science Ministers Conference, the ministry said.

Kenyan President Arrives for Summit With No

SK1709084590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0734 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi arrived in Seoul Monday for summit talks with President No Tae-u.

Moi and No will have talks in the afternoon at Chongwadae, the official residence of the president. Moi will tour industrial complexes and discuss possible advances of Korean businesses into the central African nation with business leaders before he leaves the country Thursday.

President since 1978, Moi is accompanied by his foreign, industry, trade, energy ministers and 20 other high-level government officials.

Moi Discusses Economic Ties

SK1709101590 Seoul YONHAP in English 1015 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 17 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u on Monday had a formal meeting with visiting Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi and discussed practical ways of expanding cooperation between the two countries.

In the summit, President No expressed satisfaction at the progress seen in the bilateral ties since the two countries normalized their relations in 1964 and wished the Kenyan Government to keep supporting South Korean positions in the United Nations and the Non-aligned Movement.

No stressed the need to step up South-South cooperation.

President Moi, on his part, said his government would continue supporting South Korean formula for reunifying the Korean peninsula and expanding close bilateral cooperation in the international arena.

Moi asked No to encourage South Korean enterprises to participate in Kenyan projects for developing its sightseeing resources and establishing a skill training center. No said his government would provide financial aid to the technicians training center with the Overseas Development Cooperation Fund.

Moi asked the South Korean Government to take initiatives to redress the trade imbalance which has constantly been in favor of South Korea.

Business Congress Brings People From 50 Nations

SK1509073490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0646 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 15 (YONHAP)—About 1,000 businessmen and policymakers from 50 countries of the world have come to Seoul to take part in the 17th annual Small Business Congress to promote partnership and prosperity among small firms.

Under the slogan "Small business: Partnership for global prosperity," the conference is to be held from Monday through Wednesday at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Guests include Kang Yong-hun, South Korean prime minister, John Sloan, chairman of the National Federation of Independent Business of the United States, Takahashi Michinao, international trade and industry minister of Japan.

People from the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, and other East European countries are also to participate and 200 South Korean scholars and businessmen attend the 12 subcommittee meetings in the conference.

Discussion topics range from industrial multinationalization's impact on small business to cooperation among small businesses in the era of international detente.

Leader Denies Opposition's Return to Assembly

SK1409013390 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Sep 90 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "Wishful Thinking"]

[Text] Kim Tae-chung yesterday described as "wishful thinking" the ruling party's observation that the recent floods might prompt opposition lawmakers to return to parliament.

Relief work for flood victims should be undertaken in a suprapartisan manner and there is no reason for the PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy] not to join the government's flood rehabilitation efforts, he said.

Kim, president of the PPD, however, made it clear that relief efforts for flood victims is one matter and returning to parliament is another.

Stock Market Reaches Lowest Point Since 1988

SK1709084990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0747 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—Panic spread among South Korean investors on Monday as the Composite Stock Price Index [CSPI] nosedived to its lowest point in over two and a half years.

The CSPI plummeted 22 points to 568.25 on Monday as of 2:20, [0520 GMT] reaching its lowest level since Jan. 12, 1988.

The index has lost a whopping 43.61 percent from its all-time high of 1007.77 points on April 1, 1989, and 37.4 percent since it opened at 908.59 in the first session of the year.

The CSPI has gone sharply downward since last Wednesday due to the torrential rain that smashed the central part of the nation and the worsening situation in the Persian Gulf.

The index shattered the year's previous low of 587.38 only 10 minutes after the opening bell and the 580-point mark was broken in 20 minutes.

All sectors lost by large margins. A total of 687 issues fell, with 520 of them plummeting to their lowest daily permissible levels, while 37 issues remained unchanged. Only one issue had posted slight gain as of 2:20 p.m.

There was panic selling of some financial issues and the stock market stabilization fund tried futilely to halt the downturn.

Market analysts say the trend will continue for the time being as the Gulf situation is building to a major crisis following raids on the embassies of four western nations in Kuwait by Iraq and the worsening domestic environment, such as inflation caused by the flood and the flight of funds from the stock market.

Government Allocates Funds for Flood Repairs

SK1709012190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0101 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea will seek to buy cement from North Korea and China in order to make up for a huge shortage caused by floods last week.

The government, in a meeting of cabinet ministers related to restoration of the areas hit by floods Sunday, has decided to give 61 billion won (87 million U.S. dollars) to Ssangyong and Sungshin Cement Industrial Co. to help repair flood damage to their facilities.

Daily production of cement in Korea has fallen 35,500 tons due to the faltering operation of the two companies.

Ban on construction of commercial buildings will be extended until the year-end, construction of expensive houses restricted, so that the scarce supplies of cement can be sent to flood-hit areas.

The cost of repairing the damage done by the record-breaking rainfall is estimated at 600 billion won, and 360 billion won of it should come from the government, said participants in the meeting presided over by Deputy Prime Minister Yi Sung-yun.

The government will set aside 200 billion or 300 billion won of this year's supplementary budget for flood-hit homes and enterprises.

The government will lend 3 million won to each flood-hit household and 10 million to merchants. Trading companies hurt by flooding will have the repayment of export loans extended by 45 days to 90 days.

A total of 15 billion won in special subsidies will be given to flood-hit farming families, ranging from 200,000 won to 400,000 won each according to the seriousness of the damage.

The meeting, also attended by the home, finance, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, trade and industry, health and social affairs, labor and transportation, agreed to force 51 industrial companies whose 6,585 workers have not been paid to pay them 7.88 billion won by Chusok, the Full-Moon Harvest Festival on Oct. 3.

'Biggest Bust' of Chemical Suppliers Reported

SK1709083190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0524 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Pusan, Sept. 17 (YONHAP)—Prosecution agents smashed a drug factory and made a record seizure of enough ingredients for 5 million doses of crystalized methamphetamine in South Korea's largest port Monday.

Six people were arrested and two others are wanted by law enforcement authorities, who also confiscated 125kg of hydrochloric ephedrine, the active ingredient in the drug, known as "hiroppon."

Pae Kun-ki, 39, and other members of his ring bought 200 kilograms of the chemical for 100,200 U.S. dollars in Singapore last December and smuggled it in by ship, investigators said.

Pae made his first deal through his nephew in January, selling 75kg of the chemical for 41.25 million won (58,000 dollars). He was intercepted while trying to make another sale of 80kg for 120 million won on Sept. 4, the prosecution said.

This is reported to be the biggest bust of drug chemical suppliers in Korea. The 200kg was enough to make 150kg of drugs, worth 150 billion won on the street or enough for 5 million doses, according to the prosecution.

Mun Pyong-ok, 42, one of the arrested, had been hiding since July, when he escaped a police raid. He is suspected of selling some 8kg of hiroppon for 200 million won since August last year, investigators said.

Yi Su-yong, 49, also arrested, is said to be the first drug dealer to set up mobile drug factory inside a truck, making and selling as he went from city to city.

The prosecution in this city has been after suppliers as part of a clampdown on drug trafficking. Investigators have nabbed four drug rings since 1989 and confiscated 990kg of chemicals.

Burma

AFP Notes Military Forces on Rangoon Streets

BK1709033490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0318 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Rangoon, Sept 17 (AFP)—Burma's military government has maintained strict control with a show of force on the streets of the capital ahead of Tuesday's second anniversary of its seizure of power, witnesses said. Concentrations of troops stationed at normally crowded downtown areas where hundreds of thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators marched in 1988 have been beefed up and armoured units patrol to deter any protest, the witnesses said.

The military appears to be competely in control apart from isolated incidents of unrest among students and monks in Rangoon and Mandalay, the ancient capital north of here, making a repeat of the events two years ago unlikely, analysts said. The military seized power on September 18, 1988 to crush nationwide student-led protests against the 26-year-old regime of strongman General Ne Win, whose "Burmese way to socialism" is widely blamed for impoverishing this once-rich country.

Now groups of 30 or fewer students, whose universities have been closed since 1988, stage one or two snap demonstrations a week here, popping up on a crowded street to shout anti-government slogans and vanishing when security forces appear, witnesses said.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the official name of the two-year-old military government, has yet to transfer power as promised to the winning party of the May elections—the National League for Democracy (NLD), which won 392 of the 485 seats.

SLORC First Secretary Major General Khin Nyunt last week urged the country's political parties to join hands to bring about a democratic state, in the latest such overture by the government. In his speech, carried by state media, the role of the parties, notably the NLD, appeared more or less confined to the drafting of a new constitution guaranteeing the unity of a nation beset by ethnic insurgencies. Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said the NLD should supervise the drafting process and called on it, as well as winning candidates of other political parties, to initiate seminars and discussions at the grassroots level in order to guage public opinion. "The SLORC and the tardmadaw (military) are ready to render whatever assistance is needed according to the law," he declared.

While die-hards in the NLD and other parties viewed the speech with misgivings, moderates said they saw it as paving the way for a long sought-after dialogue with the military government.

Reliable NLD sources said Sunday that a letter was sent Thursday to the SLORC agreeing to discuss at least the points on which the parties and the military appeared to agree, namely the need to convene parliament, hold a national convention and draft a new constitution.

Some NLD members have condemned the letter as a sellout only weeks after elected candidates gathered in Rangoon to demand talks with the government, that it convene parliament by September and surrender power under a temporary constitution. Observers, however, said the country's political parties have yet to come to terms with the realities here despite the SLORC's insistence that they have no alternative but to toe the line. "The SLORC has established the ground rules regarding the power transfer scenario and appears to be following a well-defined program," one Western diplomat said.

In rooting out elements considered "disruptive," the SLORC has called in for questioning four local staff from the British, U.S. and Australian embassies, as well as at least four NLD members. NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi remains under house arrest since July last year, and her party chairman, former General Tin U, was sentenced to three years hard labor last December. Earlier this month two prominent NLD leaders, Kyi Maung and Chit Khaing, both men in their 70's, were arrested on charges of revealing state secrets. No trial date has been set for them.

Rangoon Reports Mandalay Monks Attack Soldiers

BK1509144690 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] An incident occurred in Mandalay yesterday afternoon in which four soldiers who fell ill while carrying out their national defense duties come rain or shine in a frontline operation were stoned, detained, and beaten up for no apparent reason by about 30 monks while they were on their way to hospital.

Corporal Khin Maung Htwe, Private Kyaw Kyaw, Pvt Aung Naing, and Pvt Kyar Sein from the 229th Infantry Regiment, who were suffering from high fever while discharging defense duties at the frontline, left in two tricycle taxis from Monywa Bus Terminal. When they approached Mogaung Monastery they were stoned for no apparent reason by about 30 monks. The two tricycle drivers and two soldiers fled but Pvt Kyar Sein, who was very weak from high fever, was unable to flee. The monks forcefully detained the soldier without any reason and beat him up. The people in the vicinity who witnessed the incident said the soldier was innocent and that he came from a province. The soldier was set free when the people pleaded.

It has been learned that the soldier who suffered serious injury from the beatings has been hospitalized at the Defense Services Hospital.

Similarly, at about 1530 yesterday, monks from Mogaung Monastery attacked our security forces stationed in Eindawyar Compound in Mandalay with catapults and stones for no reason.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Returns From ROK; Companies Formed

BK1409135190 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir returned home today after a four-day official visit to South Korea. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Haji Omar, Sabah's Chief Minister Datuk Sri Pairin Kitingan, as well as representatives from the private sector.

During the visit, Dr. Mahathir and South Korean President No Tae-u held talks on various subjects such as the Look East policy, skilled job training opportunities for Malaysians, and trade issues. He also met private sector representatives in an effort to attract more investment into Malaysia.

In Seoul, Dr. Mahathir and his entourage were seen off by his counterpart, Mr. Kang Yong-hun, and the ROK foreign minister.

The visit was considered successful. The two countries shared identical views on international problems. Malaysia also expressed its support for the unification of the two Koreas. South Korea wants Malaysia to lend support to united Korea's application to be a member of the United Nations.

As a result of Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir's visit to South Korea, two joint venture companies were set up. Sime Derby and Hyundai Wood Industries added a total of 21 million ringgit worth of investment capital to set up Sime-Hyundai. The company, whose plant is situated in Shah Alam, plans to manufacture furniture for export to the United States.

The other joint venture company is between Vena Auto Components and Shin Sum Chemicals to produce car parts. The joint venture company is called Vena Industries and will be operational at the beginning of next year. The plant will be set up in Kapar, Kelang; initially it will provide employment to 40 workers. Its set up capital is 1.3 million ringgit. One hundred percent of its production will be exported to Korea.

Pledges More Crude Oil

BK1409141290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1243 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept 14 (AFP)—Malaysia has agreed to sell more crude oil to South Korea to offset an expected shortfall in Seoul's supplies from the Gulf, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed said Friday. Dr. Mahathir, speaking at a news conference on his return from a three-day visit to Seoul, said the increase would depend on the capacity of the national oil company, Petronas, to raise production.

Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar, who accompanied Dr. Mahathir to South Korea, said Seoul had asked for 30,000 barrels a day in addition to the some 80,000 barrels it already imports daily from Malaysia. Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia had already pledged to increase crude oil sales to India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Bangladesh since Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait triggered the Gulf crisis. "So we will have to try and see how we can meet the South Korean request," he said. A South Korean Embassy spokesman said a team of South Korean officials would arrive here next week for talks on the subject.

Dr. Mahathir said current capacity would allow Malaysia to raise daily production from the present 605,000 barrels to a maximum of 650,000 barrels.

He described his visit as fruitful and said he and South Korean President No Tae-u had agreed to step up bilateral trade and promote more South Korean investment in Malaysia.

Malaysian officials said the South Korean conglomerate Hyundai and the Malaysian multi-national, Sime Darby, signed an agreement to expand a furniture manufacturing plant during Dr. Mahathir's visit. A joint-venture agreement was also signed between a Malaysian company, Vena Auto Components Manufacturing Bhd., and South Korea's Shin Sum Chemical Industries.

Significance of Visit Viewed

BK1209132190 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed is now on a four-day official visit to South Korea, his second since his last visit there in 1983. He is accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, senior government officials, and a 20-member private sector group.

During his visit, Dr. Mahathir will hold important discussions with South Korean President No Tae-u with a view toward enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. A significant item in his itinerary will be a briefing at the [name indistinct] Development Institute on South Korean economic development strategy.

Since the prime minister's last visit to South Korea seven years ago, there has been a rapid spate of economic growth and progress in both countries. While South Korea is on the verge of achieving industrialized nation status, Malaysia's economy is viewed as the (?epitome) among the developing countries. There is much for Malaysia to learn from South Korea, whose remarkable industrial growth and achievements, are comparable to those of Japan.

Bilateral trade between Malaysia and South Korea has increased steadily over the years, and it is gaining even greater momentum. Next to Singapore, Malaysia is South Korea's fast-growing industrial partner. The trade balance is in Malaysia's favor—a point that the South Koreans are likely to bring up in talks with their Malaysian counterparts. Last year, South Korea's imports from Malaysia totalled

$1.5 billion, compared with its exports to Malaysia, which were worth $540 million, a surplus of about $960 million in Malaysia's favor. About 85 percent of Korea's imports from Malaysia comprise all materials such as [word indistinct], oil, timber, rubber, rubber-based products, and palm oil. A large portion of the growing exports to Malaysia is made up of electrical and electronic products.

What the Malaysian Government would like to achieve through the prime minister's visit is to attract more South Korean investment, preferably on a joint venture basis. For all its industrial might, South Korea has been lagging behind Japan and even Taiwan in terms of investment in Southeast Asia in general, and Malaysia in particular. As of last year, for example, there were only 18 South Korean companies operating in Malaysia with a total investment of $215 million. However, there has been a steady increase in the number of South Korean projects in recent years from three to 11 projects in 1988 and 29 last year.

Several more applications were [word indistinct] in the first six months of this year. Malaysia would like to see greater South Korean participation in the high-technology industry, the communications sector, and the [word indistinct] industry.

This year, there appeared to be a notable increase in the number of South Korean businessmen showing an interest in investing in Malaysia. The Korean Trade Center's manager has been quoted as saying that Malaysia is fast outshining her neighboring countries as an investment center. Malaysia's main attraction is the availability of efficient [words indistinct], rapidly expanding infrastructure facilities, and high productivity operators.

There is much that both Malaysia and South Korea can gain from each other through greater economic cooperation. Hopefully, the prime minister's current visit to that country will provide a boost in this direction.

Palm Oil, Timber Bound for Mideast Unloaded

BK1709054190 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0422 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept 17 (OANA-BERNAMA)—More than 8,000 tonnes of palm oil bound for Middle East market had to be off-loaded from the ships at Johor Port, about 400 km south of here, following the UN-sponsored naval blockade against Iraq.

A Johor Port Authority spokesman said Sunday several tonnes of timber were also affected by the Gulf crisis caused by the Aug 2 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. He added that five ships were earlier scheduled to deliver the timber to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates but the consignment had to be off-loaded. The palm oil was bound for Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Oman.

Meanwhile, the agent for one of the five ships said it had to off-load nine container-loads of timber from its ship, "Taipaeng," which has Kuwait on its list of ports-of-call.

Bank Chief Says Gulf Crisis To Boost Economy

BK1409072590 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Malaysia is likely to register a growth rate in the range of 10 percent this year against 8.5 percent last year. Bank Negara [Central Bank] Governor Tan Sri Jaafar Hussein said this to newsmen in Kuala Lumpur when asked whether the Central Bank had revised upwards the growth prospects. The Gulf crisis is expected to boost the growth of the Malaysian economy in the short term.

Earlier, in a speech at Malayan Banking's 30th anniversary celebrations, Tan Sri Jaafar said preliminary figures show that the Malaysian economy will on the whole benefit from the present crude oil shock. The country is now a net oil exporter.

Weapons Seized From Vietnamese Fishing Boat

BK1509052490 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0349 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Kuala Terengganu (Malaysia) Sept 15 (OANA/BERNAMA)—An assortment of modern weapons was seized from a Vietnamese fishing vessel which was detained in Malaysian waters three days ago. Eleven fishermen aged between 21 and 62 were held for questioning.

It was learnt that among the weapons seized were Soviet-made AK-47s, submachine guns, grenade-launchers, rockets and a sizeable amount of ammunition.

The boat was caught about 80 nautical miles off the east coast of Terengganu State, by a Royal Malaysian Navy craft, which was on patrol in Malaysia's Exclusive Economic Zone. The 62-tonne boat was handed over to the Fisheries Department while the weapons were handed over to the police. A Fisheries Department spokesman who confirmed the incident said about 50 kg of salted fish and some fresh fish were also found in the boat.

Two Detainees Released Unconditionally 15 Sep

BK1509073890 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Two of the three persons detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) in connection with the demonstrations over the imposition of a toll in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur were released today. City Police Officer, Datuk Henry Chin, announced this at a news conference.

The two are Tan Kok Wai, the opposition MP [member of parliament] for Sungai Besi and Wong Ah Chee, Chairman of the Cheras Toll Exemption Appeal Committee. They were released without conditions. Lim Kit Chee, special assistant to opposition MP for Bukit Bintang, Lee Lam Thye, is still under detention because police have yet to complete investigations. The three men were detained last Saturday following unruly demonstrations the previous day against the imposition of toll rates on the upgraded Cheras road.

Cambodia

More on Jakarta Results, SNC Bangkok Meeting

Political Bureau Communique

BK1409121090 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Communique on the 14 September session of the Central Committee Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party—read by announcer]

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee held a session on Friday morning, 14 September 1990, in the presence of Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, to hear the report presented by the State of Cambodia's delegation after attending the Informal Meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta on 9 and 10 September 1990.

The delegation, led by Comrade Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of foreign affairs, informed the Political Bureau of the results achieved during that informal meeting. These results included the joint statement which stipulated, among other things, the decision to form a 12-member Supreme National Council [SNC] representing the two Cambodian parties and the acceptance of the framework document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council as a basis for a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem.

Comrade Hun Sen also informed the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee of the official visit made by the delegation to the Kingdom of Thailand on its way back from Jakarta to Phnom Penh.

The Political Bureau highly valued the immense results achieved by our delegation during this mission and noted that thanks to the constructive position, personal efforts, and goodwill of our delegation, the Jakarta meeting was saved from failure and was able to issue this historic joint statement.

After hearing the report of Comrade Hun Sen, the Political Bureau appealed to the SNC to hold its first session to decide on dispatching a delegation representing the SNC to the 45th UN General Assembly and to solve the issues of voluntary cease-fire and cessation of foreign military aid pending a lasting agreement to be decided upon during the coming Paris International Conference on Cambodia. The Political Bureau hoped all members of the SNC would make every effort to solve these urgent matters to enter the second stage, namely the reconvening of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

Phnom Penh, 14 September 1990

Hun Sen Addresses Clergy

BK1509084590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Speech by Hun Sen at Buddhist ceremony at Preah Keo Morakot monastery in Phnom Penh on morning of 15 September—recorded]

[Text] Greetings respected clergy and compatriots and beloved guests attending this ceremony.

Today, I come here as a Buddhist follower. However, arriving here, I am honored to have been charged by the comrade chairman of the National Assembly and honored to have received petitions of support from the clergy and compatriots in Phnom Penh for the peace plan recently achieved in Jakarta.

Perhaps you heard that I led a government delegation a few days ago to attend the meeting in Jakarta. Afterward, I paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand to continue implementing what is called the result of the Jakarta joint statement. I would like to express sincere thanks to the clergy and the people in Phnom Penh for providing support for this peace plan and for the stance of the State of Cambodia's government in the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem.

I do not want to disrupt for long this morning's alms offering ceremony, but I think I have an obligation to inform the clergy and compatriots on some points relating to the Jakarta meeting and the first session of the Supreme National Council [SNC] in Bangkok, including the role of Samdech Sihanouk because foreign newspapers have reported a lot about this issue.

The SNC has now been set up with 12 members, six from the State of Cambodia, including myself and some of its members sitting here, and six from the other side. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk is not among the 12. I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots that the State of Cambodia's goal is to eliminate the genocidal Pol Pot danger and not eliminate Samdech Norodom Sihanouk; this is the sincere objective and goal of the State of Cambodia and an issue which I have wholeheartedly worked for in two years of negotiations.

I had talks with Norodom Sihanouk and asked him to return to Cambodia. However, the reason for his absence in the list of the 12 members of the National Council is Sihanouk himself. He tricked me into going to Jakarta to attend the meeting. I went there waiting for him. He instead used a pretext not to attend and destroyed the meeting. I then became the one to save the meeting. If I had not attended the meeting, the talks would have been canceled and failure would have followed. Bloodshed would have continued. I thus decided to attend the meeting. Sihanouk used the pretext of being sick and asked for 12 or six months rest. This is why Samdech Norodom Sihanouk is not on the SNC list. This is his doing, not mine nor that of the State of Cambodia's delegation.

I informed the cochairmen of the meeting and world public opinion that I do not want Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to be out of the competition or outside the political arena of a solution to the Cambodian problem. However, his own attitude has compelled the meeting to decide on 12 persons without Norodom Sihanouk. Now Samdech Sihanouk is like a child outside the house. The 12 persons are inside the house and Samdech Sihanouk punished himself by staying out in the sun's heat and heavy rains. However, lately, particularly yesterday, Samdech Sihanouk said he will attend the National Council if his Excellency Hun Sen begged him to do so. I replied to our representative in Bangkok that Hun Sen will not extend the invitation because the national council was set up with only 12 members; if Samdech Sihanouk wants to be part of the 12, the State of Cambodia's government with its six members will facilitate his entry into the National Council by withdrawing one of his men from the list. This is the absolute stance we have to take. He wants to come as the 13th person and be the chairman.

As for us, I have informed the cochairman of the meeting that the hen should come before the egg and not the egg before the hen. Therefore, a list should be made up comprising 12 persons. If the 12 do not want a 13th person, this means this hen will not lay an egg. I said to the cochairmen of the meeting that Phnom Penh's six hens in particular do not lay eggs. Therefore, there would be no 13th person, namely Sihanouk. If Sihanouk wants to get in, we could open the house's door by getting one person to stay outside the house and letting Sihanouk inside. This is our stance.

I went to Bangkok in order to arrange the meeting there, which will be held on 17 September. So next Monday I will lead my assistants, namely the six members, from Phnom Penh to participate in the first session of the meeting. However, the question posed at the moment is that people want to invite Phnom Penh to participate in the meeting [words indistinct]. However, the question posed at the moment is that (?people) want to invite Samdech Sihanouk to the meeting. I vehemently told them Samdech Sihanouk is not a member of the Supreme National Council. Therefore, he has no right to attend the meeting. If Samdech Sihanouk's participation in the meeting is desired, we can facilitate it, but a member should be removed for Samdech Sihanouk to be included as the 12th person. This is our planned position. We are not at fault.

I have wholeheartedly worked for peace in Cambodia; however if the meeting in Bangkok cannot be held, I will go, but there is a possibility the meeting will not take place because of the pretext people used saying if Samdech Sihanouk does not attend, there will be no meeting. This would be the fault of the other side. We are not at fault, because Samdech Sihanouk's name is not on the list. Therefore, he has no right to take part in the meeting. If he wants to do so, the 12 have to decide that he is allowed to attend the meeting; however, we have said one person would be taken out and Sihanouk included to get a chair to sit on, because there are only 12 chairs. If there is an extra person, he will have to stand. Does Sihanouk want to stand up or sit down? If he wants to sit down, one person should be taken out for Sihanouk to have a seat. This is not our doing; it is the other side's.

Therefore, today I am very glad the clergy and compatriots in Phnom Penh have expressed support for the establishment of this national council. On behalf of the government, the National Assembly, the Council of State, and the front's national council present here, I promise to do my best to make the result achieved in Jakarta reach fruition through the successive sessions of the National Council and the conference in Paris. There is a possibility that in the near future I will go to New York and the United Nations, or at least send representatives of the Phnom Penh government to the United Nations. I would like to inform you the United Nations is not controlled by the tripartite as before but the entry is half ours and half the other side's. Therefore, half of us are on this seat.

I think at this session of the national council, the discussion would be on sending a delegation to the United Nations. There are also the issues of the cease-fire and the end of military aid. According to the plan of the State of Cambodia's government, there are only a few more days to Pchum Ben [the culmination of a two-week period during which food offerings are conveyed to the souls of deceased persons through Buddhist monks]. After this, it will be Chenh Vassa [another Buddhist ceremony corresponding roughly to the end of the rainy season in October], and then it will be the Ak Ambok festival to pay respect to the moon [mid-November].

I am thinking of proposing a formula for a cease-fire between Chenh Vassa and the festival paying respect to the moon. Thus, if people agreed, we could implement this and end the bloodshed. This is the insistent aspiration of the clergy and every Buddhist. I will do all I can. However, the point is that it is not all up to us. If the other parties and other members of the council do not agree, we cannot achieve it. However, we want a cease-fire in the period between Chenh Vassa and the day to pay respect to the moon. After that, we will move toward peace and free elections. I pledge to do all I can for compatriots to find and maintain peace and preserve what has been built and Buddhism, revered by the Cambodian people, as well as other religions, including Islam and Christianity. We will strive to work toward this to enable everyone to practice his respective faith.

Once again, I would like to thank the clergy and compatriots for their support for the stance of the State of Cambodia's Government, and for myself who is leading the delegation. I also thank guests present here. May the clergy and compatriots be blessed with longevity, social standing, good health, energy, and happiness. Thank you.

Monks Adopt Resolution

BK1709063590 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0504 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK September 17—"The principle objective of the State of Cambodia is to eliminate Pol Pot and not Prince Norodom Sihanouk", said Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs of the State of Cambodia.

Speaking to Buddhist worshipers at a religious ceremony held at the Silver Pagoda here on Saturday, Prime Minister Hun Sen, who is also member of the Political Bureau of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, also recalled the success of the recent informal meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta and the outcome of his visit to Bangkok on his way back home from Jakarta. Prime Minister Hun Sen spoke of the agenda of the first session of the Supreme National Council [SNC] due to open in Bangkok today. He pledged to do his best to respect the outcome of the Jakarta informal meeting by sending a representation of the SNC to the UN and bringing lasting peace to Cambodia.

On the same occasion, the Buddhist monks of Cambodia adopted a resolution to be sent to the president of the State Council, the chairman of the National Assembly, the chairman of the Council of Ministers, and the president of the United Front. The Cambodian Buddhist monks, resolutions stressed, fully support the position of the government of the State of Cambodia in finding a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Delegation Departs

BK1709050890 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] At 0815 [0015 GMT] on the morning of 17 September, the delegation of the State of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC] led by Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, foreign minister, and member of the SNC, left Phnom Penh by a special plane of the Air Kampuchea Company for Bangkok of the Kingdom of Thailand in order to attend the first SNC meeting.

The State of Cambodia's delegation comprises:

1. Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister;
2. Comrade General Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and defense minister;
3. Comrade General Sin Song, interior minister;
4. Comrade Kong Sam-ol, deputy minister of the Council of Ministers;
5. Comrade Hor Nam Hong, minister of the Council of Ministers Cabinet in charge of foreign affairs; and
6. Comrade Chem Snguon, member of the Council of State and deputy justice minister.

Seeing the delegation off at Pochentong Airport were Comrade Bou Thang, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Chea Soth, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Mrs. Men Sam-an, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions; Comrade Mat Ly, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the party Central Committee's Control Commission; Comrade Ney Pena, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission; Comrade Nguon Nhel, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and agriculture minister; Comrade Sar Kheng, member of the party Central Committee, chief of the party Central Committee Cabinet, and chairman of the Central Organization Commission; Comrade Lieutenant General Pol Saroeun, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, deputy defense minister, and chief of the General Staff of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces; Comrade Sim Ka, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Phnom Penh Municipal Party Committee; and many comrade members of the party Central Committee and leaders of the party, state, and mass organizations.

Further on Departure

BK1709025890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0245 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, Sept 17 (AFP)—Premier Hun Sen and the five other top leaders flew out of here Monday for Bangkok to attend the first meeting of Cambodia's interim authority. The six Phnom Penh members of the Supreme National Council (SNC) left for Bangkok directly on an Air Kampuchea flight. They included Mr. Hun Sen, Defence Minister Tie Banh, Interior Minister Sin Song, Vice Premier Kong Sam-ol, Minister Attached to the Council of Ministers Hor Nam Hong and Vice Minister of Justice Chem Snguon. They were due to attend later Monday in Bangkok the first meeting of the SNC with a further six members from the tri-partite resistance coalition.

Under a United Nations peace blueprint the SNC would represent the sovereignty of Cambodia and take up its seat at the United Nations, where the General Assembly opens its annual meeting in New York on Tuesday. The United Nations would assume administrative tasks and oversee the conduct of free and fair elections as part of an overall peace settlement.

Officials here said Monday's flight was the first time Thai authorities have allowed the Phnom Penh carrier to land in Thailand, adding that the plane would be flying into Bangkok's military airport.

Hor Nam Hong Gives Interview

BK1509153590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Sep 90

["Interview with of the Council of Minister's Cabinet Minister in Charge of Foreign Affairs Hor Nam Hong, member of the Supreme National Council and member of the State of Cambodia's delegation at the informal meeting in Jakarta" by local press at the office of the Council of Ministers on the morning of 14 September—recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] Foreign news agencies have successively commented that the documents of the UN Security Council would put Cambodia under UN administration or under a (?coalition) government. "This is not so. This is an erroneous interpretation and one with an ulterior motive about which I am not going to speculate. If we examine the documents of the UN Security Council's five permanent members, there is not a word about setting up a coalition government; there is not a word about dismantling the Phnom Penh government or the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. The documents only talk about the establishment of the Supreme National Council [SNC] representing Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and unity."

Once an agreement on a solution is signed, this SNC "will hand over necessary rights to the UN transitional authority or UNTAC to carry out three tasks: organize the process to implement the agreement reached by the SNC at the future Paris conference; organize elections; and oversee aspects of the implementation of this agreement and the organization of elections in Cambodia. I would like to specify that the UN authority is not coming to control Cambodia; it only oversees some aspects relating to elections and the process to implement this agreement."

We agreed to the UN Security Council's documents because the two governments will continue to carry out their respective work as usual during the transitional period as well as from now until the elections to set up a new government. "The two governments remain unchanged." We agreed to let UNTAC control five ministries and a number of other establishments to be discussed later.

The SNC should agree on setting up a delegation to represent it at the UN General Assembly. There are other urgent issues to be discussed by the SNC such as the voluntary cease-fire and the end of foreign military aid. There are also other issues to be discussed at the Paris international conference, which could be held toward the end of (?October). The SNC should also discuss other issues such as the role of the United Nations in the transitional period; the power of the SNC; the elections; respect for human rights; and the guarantee of Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, permanent neutrality, and status of nonalignment.

Sok An on UN Delegation

BK1709002990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] The Phnom Penh government yesterday proposed a compromise formula for the composition of Cambodia's UN delegation, one of the remaining obstacles to a peace settlement and an issue that is expected to be taken up by a Cambodian national council at its first meeting in Bangkok today.

Phnom Penh Vice Foreign Minister Sok An said that in talks with Foreign Ministry permanent secretary M.R. Kasem S. Kasemsi in Bangkok yesterday he suggested a formula that would allow three members of the UN delegation to come from the Phnom Penh side and three from the three-party resistance.

Sok An told THE NATION in an interview that although United Nations' regulations allow only five members in a delegation to the General Assembly, the leader of the delegation is not included. Sok An said the composition of a UN delegation would be one of the four major topics discussed at the first meeting of the Supreme National Council.

The UN General Assembly is to convene tomorrow, and Cambodia's seat, previously held by the resistance government, is expected to be taken up by a delegation chosen by the supreme council.

The Phnom Penh official said the other topics would be establishment of a ceasefire, a halt to foreign military assistance to the four Cambodian factions, and the question of the supreme council's chairmanship.

At first, Thai officials expressed concern that the number of delegates to the UN could pose a problem. "There are four parties but only five members (in a delegation)," one of them said.

Today's meeting will take place in the afternoon at the former premises of the Cambodian Embassy, on Rajdamri Road.

The council itself was set up after an unprecedented agreement between the factions at talks in Jakarta last week.

Sok An expressed hope that the meeting would be able to agree on the four crucial issues. He cautioned that the first meeting is crucial and cannot fail. "We need to abide by the joint communique issued in Jakarta," he said.

Kasem, who shuttled between the Princess Hotel, where the Phnom Penh delegates are staying, and the Foreign Ministry, where the resistance representatives gathered, is acting as an interlocutor for the Cambodian factions. Kasem was also working closely with PM's [Prime Minister's] advisers throughout yesterday. If there is an agreement on the UN delegation and the chairmanship, Kasem said, the Paris conference on Cambodia, which broke up last year after a deadlock, could be reconvened during the current UN General Assembly session. "The UN could then consider what is agreed upon by the Cambodian parties and the Paris conference," he said.

A Thai foreign ministry official said that Phnom Penh's latest proposal would be discussed with the other council members. He said that both the resistance and the Phnom Penh government have to compromise further in order to agree on the UN delegation and the question of the council's chairmanship.

Phnom Penh has rejected resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk's call that an extra seat on the council be allocated for the president of the council. All the parties involved, including Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, have indicated that they would like to see Sihanouk head the 12-member council. Soon after the Jakarta talks, which he did not attend, Sihanouk announced that he would take a six-month leave of absence from politics for health reasons. However, last Friday he announced he would be willing to assume the chairmanship of the council.

REUTERS reported from Beijing yesterday that before leaving for Thailand, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan was trying to persuade Sihanouk to join the first meeting of the supreme council. Accounding to a report by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, however, Sihanouk was not able to meet Khieu Samphan because of health reasons and had assigned his wife, Princess Monique, to hold "political discussions" with the Khmer Rouge leader.

Sok An said yesterday Phnom Penh would accept Sihanouk's chairmanship only as one of the 12 members. "We are abiding by the joint communique and the spirit of Jakarta," he said. "If he accepts, Sihanouk will be the chairman and Hun Sen will be the vice chairman."

At the Jakarta meeting, the factions agreed to split membership on the council equally between the resistance and Phnom Penh but the question of whether the chairman should be included was left open. Phnom Penh is willing to accept the former president of the Cambodian National Assembly, Chau Sen Kosal Chhum, who served during the time of Prince Sihanouk, as the chief Cambodian delegate to the UN, Sok An said.

Hun Sen is scheduled to arrive in Bangkok this morning. Khieu Samphan returned here last night after consultations with Chinese officials in Beijing. Son Sann also arrived yesterday from Paris.

Paper Comments on SNC

BK1609160590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Sep 90

[PRACHEACHON commentary; date not given: "Our Definite Stance in the Search for Peace"]

[Text] To again show the definite and goodwill stance of the State of Cambodia in the search for peace expected by both the Cambodian people and the peace- and justice-loving public worldwide, the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee Political Bureau—after hearing the report on the outcome of the Jakarta informal meeting and that of his official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand presented by Comrade Hun Sen, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister of the State of Cambodia—has lately appealed to the established Supreme National Council [SNC] to hold its first session in order to discuss the sending of a delegation representing the SNC to the 45th UN General Assembly and to resolve a number of pressing issues agreed upon to reconvene the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

This is the most definite and genuine stance of the State of Cambodia emanating only from the fundamental objective of bringing an early end to the war, restoring peace and security to our people and motherland, and protecting them at all costs from the threat posed by the genocidal Pol Pot regime. With this genuine intention, the State of Cambodia, in the past and at present, has displayed its integral and sincere efforts in making concessions and conducting diplomatic activities, in cooperation with the international community and the countries in the region, until achieving the important historic document at the informal meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 9-10 September. This document has cleared the way for the definitive implementation of a cease-fire and the cessation of outside aid as well as for organizing free, democratic, and fair elections under international supervision if the other Cambodian groups in the so-called Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea [CGDK] continue to scrupulously implement the outcome stipulated in the Jakarta joint statement. It is necessary to hold the first SNC meeting as put forth by the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau.

However, what is conspicuous at the moment—as reported by a number of foreign media—is that Sihanouk, who has previously removed himself from the arena of the Jakarta talks and vociferously announced that he has ceased his political activities for six months, has, at this point in time, carried out new maneuvers aimed at sabotaging the opening of the first SNC session.

On 14 September, Sihanouk's office in Bangkok issued a statement shamelessly announcing that Sihanouk wanted Comrade Chairman Hun Sen to invite him to the first session of the SNC. This is an obvious violation of the results reached in Jakarta. The State of Cambodia's stance is that the first SNC session is to be a meeting among the 12 members as defined in the Jakarta joint statement. If the first meeting does not proceed smoothly or fails to start because of the absence of Samdech Sihanouk, it is the fault of the other Cambodian groups in the CGDK, which are not faithfully observing the document agreed upon in Jakarta.

For the time being, we wish to reaffirm that, even though the State of Cambodia is in a victorious position, we still have the goodwill to reconcile all Cambodians to put an end to the danger of the war as quickly as possible to rebuild our national society and country on a timely basis. This is because Cambodia is the only country in Southeast Asia that remains in the flame of a destructive protracted war, which has been going on for over 20 years. The appeal launched by the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau is the most logical in keeping with the aspiration of the Cambodian people and the world.

At this crucial moment, the other Cambodian groups in the so-called CGDK should immediately relinquish their (?warmongering policy) and their ambition for personal power to fearlessly ruin their own nation and should join hands with the State of Cambodia in earnestly implementing the Jakarta joint statement. The Cambodian people remain cautiously alert to the capricious tricks of the other Cambodian party which intends to drag on the war to bleed the people, and we are categorically opposed to the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

Sar Kheng Chairs Party Resolutions Meeting

BK1109090990 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0452 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK September 11—A get-together on the implementation of the resolutions of the 11th party plenum and the party and state's appeal to fight corruption was held in Phnom Penh recently in the presence of Sar Kheng, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee [CC], chief of the Party CC Office and chairman of the Party Commission for Organization. Speaking to leading officials from different ministries, services and provinces throughout the country, Sar Kheng informed the participants of the resolution of the 11th conference, fifth legislature, of the party Central Committee and the appeal of the party and government to the authorities at all levels to wage a vigorous struggle against corruption by taking measures to liquidate all negative phenomena in the society.

He also brought out some important issues relating to the implementation of the resolutions and appeal of the party and state for maintaining public order and security, strengthening the revolutionary forces and developing socioeconomic activities. On this occasion, some representatives expressed their firm determination to well carry out all the resolutions and appeal of the party and the government.

Resistance Sources on Jakarta, SNC Meeting

Khieu Samphan's Statement

BK1709042590 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Statement by Khieu Samphan, head of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, at the Informal Meeting on Cambodia held in Jakarta on 10 September—read by announcer]

[Text] After the meeting approved the Jakarta joint statement on Cambodian problem, His Excellency Khieu Samphan, head of the party of Democratic Kampuchea, issued a statement whose full text reads as follows:

Messrs. Chairmen: On the occasion that our meeting has concluded with total success, I would like to express deepest and boundless gratitude to His Excellency President Suharto for his sincere and profound feelings of affection and best regards for the Cambodian people and for his noble assistance and support for the Cambodian people's just cause for national independence, peace, and freedom. I wish to express most sincere thanks to your excellency the Indonesian foreign minister and co-chairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] and the other ASEAN nations that have made praiseworthy efforts for the past several years in contribution to quickly settling the Cambodian problem. I offer special thanks to your excellency for organizing this meeting of the four Cambodian parties within the framework of the PICC after the five permanent members of the UN Security Council achieved good results in their work on the Cambodian question.

I express sincere thanks to His Excellency Roland Dumas, French foreign minister who is the co-chairman of the PICC, for designating Mrs. Edwige Avice, French junior minister for foreign affairs, to contribute to the success of this meeting.

I reiterate profound thanks to His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, who is represented here by his special envoy—His Excellency Ahmed Rafiuddin. The presence of the special envoy of his excellency the UN secretary general attests to the fact that the United Nations has always paid attention to promoting peace in Cambodia.

Finally, I would like to express deepest thanks to all peace- and justice-loving countries for supporting Cambodian people's struggle to regain their national independence and freedom. We sincerely want these countries to support the SNC as they have supported the Cambodian people in order to enable the SNC to fulfill its mission successfully throughout the transitional period.

There are many questions left to be resolved to restore peace in Cambodia. However, we are convinced that through the close cooperation with the United Nations and with lofty determination and confidence in itself, the SNC will enjoy the warm welcome, trust, and support of the Cambodian people and the international community in implementing the documents of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council which constitute the sole basic documents for settling the Cambodian problem comprehensively through political means.

We are very happy that all the Cambodian parties accept that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk is the only statesman who can be recognized both at home and abroad and that the samdech is the only statesman who can effectively lead the SNC.

In conclusion, we are convinced that at the end of the transitional period, Cambodia will certainly regain its independence and sovereignty.

Jakarta Statement Cited

BK1709040390 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] On 10 September in Jakarta, the four Cambodian parties accepted in its entirety the five-chapter documents of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council as the sole basis for the comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem. They have also agreed to set up the Supreme National Council on the basis of the five documents.

The joint statement issued on 28 August in New York by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council clearly stated that after all the Cambodian parties accept the documents of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and after the SNC is formed, the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] will be resumed with participation of all parties concerned and the UN secretary general.

The task of the coming PICC meeting is to approve an agreement on ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia regarding its concrete implementation by basing entirely on the documents of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Moreover, it has been stated clearly in the sixth chapter of the joint statement issued at the Jakarta meeting on 10 September the two co-chairmen of the PICC agreed to proceed with the efforts to convene the PICC as soon as possible. The majority of international public opinion has also called for the convening of the PICC as soon as possible to totally implement the peace plan of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Phnom Penh View 'Erroneous'

BK1609043890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 1100 GMT 15 Sep 90

["Political commentary": "Clarification on the Jakarta Agreement"]

[Text] Our political commentary today is a clarification on the Hun Sen regime's erroneous interpretation of the Jakarta agreement. This erroneous interpretation was made in an editorial of the newspaper PRACHEACHON broadcast by the Heng Samrin regime recently over its radio station. We would like to excerpt the points containing the erroneous interpretation.

Through the UN Supreme Council [as heard] [Krom Oddam Snang Ka Angka Sahak Pracheacheat], the State of Cambodia, which is administering and controlling everything in the country, has the right to represent Cambodia in all international affairs at the United Nations and in various special agencies, establishments, and other international conferences. Another sentence says the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime will absolutely maintain its independence and sovereignty, and so on. This is an erroneous interpretation. With reference to this erroneous interpretation, whether intentional or unintentional, we should clarify the matter. However, in clarifying this issue, the Voice of the Khmer radio has no intention of starting an argument over the airwaves; the aim is to show the truth to the Cambodian people.

It is to be recalled that the meeting in Jakarta was held under the chairmanship of the two cochairmen, Indonesia and France, which received the mandate to organize this meeting from the Paris International Conference on Cambodia. Therefore, this meeting is not related to the Tokyo meeting. The informal meeting in Jakarta achieved two main historic results mentioned in the Jakarta joint statement dated 10 September 1990. The first result is that all Cambodian parties agreed to accept in its entirety the peace plan of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC]; second, all parties agreed to set up the Supreme National Council [SNC], which is part of the Cambodian peace plan worked out by the five major powers.

Clause 3-A of the joint statement clearly states that the SNC is Cambodia's only legitimate body and source of power and the representative of Cambodia's independence and sovereignty during the transitional period. Therefore, the affirmation that the State of Cambodia has the right to represent Cambodia's seat in every international forum and that it is the one preserving Cambodia's independence and sovereignty is an affirmation opposite of the truth as stated in the Jakarta joint statement. It is the SNC which represents Cambodia's independence and sovereignty. The SNC is the sole legitimate organization and source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period; it is not the State of Cambodia of Heng Samrin and Hun Sen.

Clause 3-A of the joint statement of the informal meeting in Jakarta states that the SNC, at the time of signing a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem, will hand over to the United Nations all necessary powers to ensure the implementation of a comprehensive agreement, including the power relating to the organization of free and just elections and also the power relating to UN administration of the country during the transitional period. Therefore, all necessary power to administer Cambodia in the transitional period will be handed over by the SNC to the United Nations, which has the task of establishing a neutral political atmosphere prior to the elections in Cambodia. The State of Cambodia of Heng Samrin and Hun Sen does not have any power during this period.

Concerning the reaching of the Jakarta agreement, the three parties of the Cambodian resistance movement made many concessions to achieve it. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk made concessions in the proposal contained in his statement dated 8 September. The samdech proposed the six-plus-two-plus-two-plus-two formula, which could include a chairman to be agreed upon for the SNC as stated in the Jakarta joint statement.

In the peace plan for Cambodia, the five major powers and permanent members of the UNSC welcome the decision to choose Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as chairman of the SNC and as the 13th member. This is because the five major countries think the SNC cannot be supreme without Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as chairman; he is recognized by the Cambodian people and the world as the symbol of Cambodia. Therefore, the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen group ought to abide by the correct view of the Cambodian people and the world. This group should join with all Cambodian parties in inviting Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to be chairman of the SNC. This is an important and necessary step toward peace in Cambodia. The Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime should not run counter to this for it would hinder the restoration of peace in Cambodia, peace which the Cambodian people badly need and deserve.

SRV Called 'Stumbling Block'

BK0909094590 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 0400 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Station commentary: "Who Is the Stumbling Block to a Political Settlement of the Cambodian Problem?"]

[Text] The five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] recently have adopted a peace plan for a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem. The UNSC peace plan has been widely welcomed and considered a major breakthrough for a political comprehensive settlement of the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia by the peace- and justice-loving countries throughout the world. The National Government of Cambodia [NGC] and the tripartite Cambodian National Resistance [CNR] have also voiced their full support for the plan. However, the Vietnamese enemies, through their own voice and that of their puppets and lackeys in Phnom Penh, have rudely rejected the UNSC peace plan. In particular, they are opposed to a UN interim administering authority to run Cambodia in the transitional period and the stationing of a UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia. Vietnam wants at all costs to preserve both the military and civil authorities of the puppet regime it has installed so it can continue to hide its aggressor forces, including Vietnamese troops and civilians, to further directly occupy Cambodia.

The Hanoi authorities' attitude shows the world they have no goodwill whatsoever to arrive at a just and comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem desired by the Cambodian people and the international community. The Hanoi authorities are still attempting to find all manner of maneuvers in the diplomatic and military fields to achieve their aggression in Cambodia, meaning to swallow Cambodia and turn it into Vietnam's territory in accordance with the Indochinese federation strategy of the Indochinese Communist Party created by the late Vietnamese Ho Chi Minh. That being the case, the Hanoi leadership has objected to all proposals, including the 11 resolutions—adopted by an overwhelming majority of votes of the UN General Assembly—aimed at fairly and comprehensively resolving the Cambodian problem through political means. This is to restore Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination.

By all appearances, the Hanoi enemy authorities are the stumbling block to a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem. Only the continued multifaceted stronger pressure by the United Nations and international community, causing Vietnam to further seriously suffer, can force it to accept a political solution to ending its war of aggression in Cambodia. This is the one and only effective approach to resolving the Cambodian problem.

Khieu Samphan To Consult Sihanouk

BK1509065890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0629 GMT 15 Sep 90

[By Charles Antoine de Nerciat]

[Text] Bangkok, Sept 15 (AFP)—A top leader of the Khmer Rouge, the most powerful force in the Cambodian resistance coalition, left here Saturday for Beijing to confer with resistance chief Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian sources said here.

Khieu Samphan, the nominal leader of the Marxist Khmer Rouge, was to hold talks in the Chinese capital with the prince ahead of the first meeting scheduled here Monday of Cambodia's newly formed interim authority, the sources said. The talks are to take place amid a flurry of last-minute negotiations to prepare for the meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC), set up Monday in Jakarta at a meeting of Cambodia's warring factions, to embody the country's sovereignty and take over its seat at the United Nations.

The U.N. seat has been held until now by the guerrilla coalition joining the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge and two smaller U.S.-assisted groups loyal to Prince Sihanouk, Cambodia's former monarch, and ex-Prime Minister Son Sann. The uneasy alliance has been fighting forces of the government installed in Cambodia almost 12 years ago following an invasion of the country by Vietnam to overthrow the Khmer Rouge.

Thai officials, involved in consultations over a meeting of the SNC—a central element of the U.N.-brokered peace framework accepted in Jakarta—told the factions Friday that its first session would be on Monday. But, according to Cambodian sources Saturday, there were still points to be settled. "We are now 95 per cent ready for the meeting to go ahead. There is still five percent to be worked out," one source said without elaborating. The consultations in the Thai capital have involved Sok An, a top official of the Phnom Penh Government, Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quan Co, and the Chinese Embassy, other sources familiar with the discussions said.

Main topics on the agenda were the delegation to send to the United Nations—a question of some urgency as the U.N. General Assembly opens in New York on Tuesday—instituting a voluntary cease-fire, and the chairmanship of the SNC, the sources said.

The chairmanship problem hinges on Prince Sihanouk's role in the peace process. Friday, only four days after announcing that he was taking a six-month leave from politics, the prince, 68 and still Cambodia's internationally most respected and prestigious leader, said he was prepared to assume the SNC presidency if invited by the warring factions, in particular Phnom Penh. Under the Jakarta accord, the 12-member SNC, equally split between Phnom Penh and the guerillas, can designate a 13th member to become the body's chairman. All three guerrilla factions have said they wanted Prince Sihanouk to become SNC chairman.

(But Premier Hun Sen said in Phnom Penh on Saturday that Prince Sihanouk could join the SNC only if he replaced one of his side's six named members. "My position is that he can join if he removes someone from his six members but he cannot become the 13th member" of the SNC, the Phnom Penh leader said, adding, "I can tell the whole world I don't want Prince Sihanouk to stay outside the SNC." But Mr. Hun Sen said Prince Sihanouk could not attend the SNC's first session in Bangkok on Monday unless he replaced one of the guerillas' six members.)

An official Phnom Penh Radio commentary, monitored here Friday, had accused the prince of "perfidious maneuvers" in the peace negotiations.

Saturday, Phnom Penh's news agency SPK, also monitored here, listed issues to be discussed at the SNC such as the U.N. delegation, a cease-fire and cessation of outside military aid to the factions.

Sihanouk Unable To Meet

BK1609103690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1027 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Bangkok, Sept 16 (AFP)—Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk was still ill and was unable to attend a meeting with Khmer Rouge chief Khieu Samphan in Beijing, a statement from his office here said Sunday. The 68-year-old former monarch did not meet Mr. Khieu Samphan, leader of one of three factions in the Cambodian resistance, due to illness, the statement said. He was represented in "political discussions" on Saturday by his wife, Princess Monique, it added.

The statement came a day before Cambodia's warring factions were to hold the first meeting of the newly formed Supreme National Council (SNC), the interim authority that will take over Cambodia's seat at the United Nations. The 12-member SNC includes representatives of Phnom Penh's pro-Vietnamese government and the three factions of the resistance coalition dominated by the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge. Cambodia's U.N. seat is currently held by the resistance coalition.

Kidney problems had been given as the reason for Prince Sihanouk's absence at talks in Jakarta on September 10, when the warring factions accepted a U.N.-brokered peace plan for Cambodia and formed the SNC. Diplomats monitoring developments in Cambodia have said they suspected that diplomatic motives were behind the prince giving illness as the reason for staying away from Jakarta.

The prince has said he would take a six-month leave of absence from politics because of his health condition, but on Friday said he would be prepared to assume the chairmanship of the SNC. However, Phnom Penh's Premier Hun Sen said Saturday the prince could only join the SNC if he did so in place of one of the resistance coalition's six named members and not as a 13th member.

Prince Sihanouk's statement said Mr. Khieu Samphan, a member of the SNC, was to travel to Bangkok on Sunday to attend Monday's opening session.

Son Sann Wants Sihanouk on SNC

BK1709021890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 2300 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] The meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] is to be held this Monday afternoon at 1400 [0700 GMT] at the Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and member of the SNC, arrived in Bangkok at 1600 [0900 GMT] on Sunday, yesterday.

His Excellency Son Sann said that he supported Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk as the head and the 13th member of the SNC. His Excellency Son Sann said that the three groups in the Cambodian resistance movement have already made tremendous concessions. Therefore Mr. Hun Sen should make some compromise by not setting any conditions if his group really wants to end the Cambodian problem.

Earlier in Strasbourg, France, His Excellency Son Sann met with members of the European Parliament, including parliamentary members from England, the Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium, and France. The European Parliamentary members said that His Excellency Son Sann's visit was made at the right time because the European Parliament would soon hold a meeting on the Cambodian problem.

His Excellency Chau Sen Kosal Chum, member of the SNC and former chairman of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, also arrived in Bangkok from France Sunday evening to attend the SNC meeting.

Sihanouk Role Reiterated

BK1709010190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC] will meet today for the first time at the Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok to negotiate the Cambodian delegation to the United Nations and the role of Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen will lead a 21-member delegation to Bangkok this morning, Prime Minister Son Sann of the resistance coalition arrived from Paris yesterday and Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan arrived from Paris [as published] yesterday.

Thailand was working to get the Cambodians to compromise on the delegation to the UN. Permanent Foreign Secretary M.R. Kasem S. Kasemsi yesterday met separately with Phnom Penh Deputy Foreign Minister Sok An and representatives of the three resistance factions.

While Phnom Penh and the resistance stressed that the agreement reached last week in Jakarta must be implemented, they remained divided over the role of Prince Sihanouk. According to the Jakarta joint communique, the Cambodian parties "agreed to accept Prince Sihanouk's proposal that if the 12 members of the SNC so desire, they could elect a Chairman for the SNC, who would, in such case, be the 13th member of the SNC." Hun Sen on Saturday rejected the extra seat for the Prince, but agreed to his chairmanship. He said that Sihanouk could join the SNC only as one of the six representatives from the resistance.

The resistance demanded that Phnom Penh abide by the provision of the Jakarta agreement which stated that the chairman must be an SNC member. It rejected Hun Sen's stand that the Prince must be one of only 12 members on the Council. It said Prince Sihanouk had given up al his posts in the resistance, so he cannot be counted among the dozen, one source said.

Sok An, who has been in Bangkok since last week to coordinate the meet, said yesterday that Phnom Penh feels the first SNC session would boost the peace process. He said that, in order of priority, the session should focus on the Cambodian delegation to the UN, bringing about a ceasefire, cessation of military aid and chairmanship of the SNC.

Prime Minister Son Sann said upon arrival yesterday that Prince Sihanouk must be the chairman and the 13th member of the SNC. He urged Hun Sen to "respond to the will of the Cambodian people" by agreeing on this point because national reconciliation could only come about under the leadership of Prince Sihanouk. Son Sann said the resistance had made a "tremendous concession" by accepting only six seats on the SNC.

Chau Sen Kosal Chhum, who is to chair the inaugural session as the SNC's most senior member, said the Khmer people would be waiting for the outcome of the meeting with high hopes. The 85-year-old former chairman of the Cambodian National Council under Sihanouk added, "Prince Sihanouk is the leader of the Khmer people and would chair the Council."

The agenda of the meeting at the Cambodian Embassy on Ratchadamri Road today would also "discuss preparations for the elections which are due in 1991 or 1992," he said.

Echoing the resistance viewpoint, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan, who arrived in Bangkok last night, said that Prince Sihanouk must be the chairman and 13th member of the SNC because it was stated clearly in the UN Security Council document and the Jakarta joint communique. "Without His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk as president of the SNC, it is quite clear the SNC cannot work and that the (Security Council) document could not be implemented in its entirety," said Khieu Samphan.

Chairmanship Statement Reported

BK1509131690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] The office of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's personal representative in Cambodia and Asia has issued a statement by His Excellency Chau Sen Kosal Chum specifying that he is traveling from France to attend the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting to be held at the Cambodian embassy in Thailand early next week.

In the statement dated 14 September in Paris, His Excellency Chau Sen Kosal Chum, former chairman of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and recently nominated member of the Cambodian SNC, said he will leave for Bangkok on 15 September to take part in the first session of the Cambodian SNC planned for 17 September at the former Cambodian embassy in Thailand. His Excellency Chau Sen Kosal Chum expressed his personal belief that the Cambodian people needs and wants Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to be chairman of the SNC. Therefore, he said he will not accept any other person except Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as chairman of the SNC.

'Military Policy' Discussed

BK1709012590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Sep 90 p 2

[Excerpt] Aranyaprathet—Khmer Rouge military leaders held a day-long meeting at their stronghold at Phnum Malai yesterday to discuss its military policy prior to the first meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC) in Bangkok today, a guerrilla source said. The source said commanders of Khmer Rouge divisions which played significant roles in the "liberation struggle" in western Cambodia—Divisions 474, 320, 450, 519, and 415—and some 50 other military personnel attended the meeting. It could not be confirmed whether Khmer Rouge supreme commander Son Sen chaired the meeting.

Khmer Rouge policy and military leaders held a major meeting earlier last week inside Cambodia opposite Pong Nam Ron of Thailand's Chanthaburi Province as negotations were continuing on the formation of the SNC.

The Phnum Malai stronghold is located about two kilometres inside Cambodia, opposite the Thai village of Ban Nong Pru 20 km south of Aranyaprathet. [passage omitted]

VODK Reports Repairing of Irrigation Systems

BK1509033890 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Treah Commune is in Thmar Puok District of Battambang Province. For nearly 12 years since the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia, a great number of our people in Treah Commune have been killed or separated, and many villages, houses, and irrigation systems destroyed. Now, Treah Commune is liberated from the control of the Hanoi aggressors.

With the assistance and support of our national resistance forces, our people in Treah Commune have repaired small and large irrigation systems badly damaged by the Vietnamese aggressors and transformed them into reservoirs, ponds, and dams full with water for their needs. To date, our people in Treah Commune have enough water for rice cultivation and planting of subsidiary crops, such as wax gourds, pumpkin, and so on around their houses. This has greatly improved the people's daily subsistence and rations.

Laos

Sali Vongkhamsao Receives French Finance Group

BK1109131090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] The delegation of the French Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Privatization in Charge of the Budget, led by (de San Landa), finance general inspector of the ministry, paid a courtesy call on Sali Vongkhamsao, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of economy, planning, and finance, in Vientiane yesterday evening. During the call, the two sides exchanged views and consulted with each other on the possibility of developing cooperation and assistance in financial area for the 1990-1991 period between Laos and France. Vice Chairman Sali Vongkhamsao informed the French delegation of the numerous difficulties and favorable conditions prevailing in the socioeconomic development in Laos, while it has stepped up cooperation with foreign countries in accordance with Laos' restructuring policy.

In the meantime, the head of the French delegation also informed Sali Vongkhamsao of the purpose of his visit to Laos as well as the outcome of its talks with the delegation of Laos' Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance, led by Boutsabong Souvannavong, deputy minister of the ministry. He said the two sides reviewed the execution of the 1989-1990 cooperation projects and exchanged views on the implementation of the 1990-1991 projects in various fields, such as national accountancy, enterprise accountancy, financial budget, financial inspection, taxation, land, social welfare, personnel training, administration, and management. The French government will send specialists to Laos to conduct further study in these fields and will sponsor Lao authorities in various fields for short-term and long-term training in France. It will also assist Laos in organizing training for banking personnel in the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

The French delegation will return home at the end of this week after ending its visit here.

Army, People Urged To Check Enemy 'Schemes'

BK1209064590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Editorial: "Be Determined To Overcome All Difficulties and Obstacles and Then March Forward To Successfully Fulfill Historic Tasks Entrusted by the Party and Nation"]

[Text] Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan, our beloved and respected leader, has frequently said in his instructions to our Armed Forces and people that our armed national salvation struggle against the enemies to liberate the country throughout the past period of national, democratic revolution was a heavy, difficult, complicated, furious, and vital issue. In the present period of national defense, economic building, and perfecting of the popular democratic system, there are even many more folds of difficulties and complexities. This is because our country does not have an economic foundation, and the social life is still full of great difficulties. Our country has just been freed from being a colony. It was also devastated by the war of aggression for a long period.

Though our country has been freed from the war and from being a foreign colony for nearly 15 full years, though the war has now become the past, and though the outside enemies and domestic reactionaries can no longer return to seizing and staging aggression against our country, as we have built and developed the country and perfected the popular democratic system with empty hands, we are facing difficulties and complexities in many fields, particularly in the economic field and daily life. Though those problems are not considered main problems and they can be settled, they have directly affected our daily life for a considerably long time.

Moreover, ill-intentioned elements and counterrevolutionaries are still trying to seek every means possible to take advantage of this situation to attack our revolution in many fields, including the spiritual, ideological, and psychological ones. They have intended to sabotage our essential foundations and disrupt the solidarity between cadres and soldiers and between soldiers and people. With their ill intentions, they have also promoted a playful and luxurious life and all kinds of activities for pleasure as well as corruption practices and the spirit of lacking responsibility over public property, lacking the sense toward organization, and ignoring rules, regulations, and discipline.

Along with taking advantage of the situation to systematically attack us in these fields and sow division in the ranks of our cadres, soldiers, and people in the ideological field and daily life, those bad elements have used the situation in which our party and state have broadened the implementation of the democratic system to demand the party and state return to them the state-managed lands and houses formerly belonging to those reactionaries who have engaged in the blood debts through their acts of opposing the revolution and who later fled. This is another scheme in line with the general schemes of the bad elements who have resisted the revolution, created disturbances and confusions in the ideological and spiritual fields, and caused suspicion and distrust between the lower and upper echelons with a view to sabotaging tranquillity and social order. By so doing, they have hoped to peacefully restore and retake their lost interests by chance.

In view of the economic difficulties together with the aforesaid evil schemes and tricks of the bad elements who have sought means to create political disturbances and social disorder with a view to destroying the revolutionary fruits that our Army and people have gained through the struggle full of countless sacrifices, our cadres and combatants in particular and for our people throughout the country in general must strengthen solidarity, heighten vigilance, enhance the spirit of defending the country and maintaining public security, oppose all sabotage acts of the bad elements, and strive in a determined manner to overcome all obstacles and difficulties now facing us.

Along with heightening vigilance to timely check all schemes of the enemies to sabotage and subvert our new, civilized system, we must resolutely contribute ever more actively to building the economy and improving the living conditions. For example, we must pay attention to growing cereal, starchy crops, perennial fruit trees and industrial trees, and vegetables for consumption in daily life. In addition, each unit should pay attention to raising domestic animals, such as cattle, pigs, and poultry as well as fish, in order to build an ever firmer basis in the economic field. Noteworthy is that all these will bring about an ideological firmness and the reduction of the use of cash in markets.

The effective contribution to the building of the economy and the improvement of living conditions of all units will create significant conditions for cadres and combatants to achieve success in political and military trainings as well as trainings in other specialized subjects. It will also guarantee national defense and maintenance of public security.

The economic prosperity enjoyed by all units will also help check, in a timely manner, all slanderous propaganda against our new system and all acts of psychological warfare of the bad elements. In particular in face of the situation in which the bad elements are taking advantage of the temporary economic difficulties in our country to implement their evil schemes and tricks aimed at creating disturbances in advance to destroy the revolutionary gains through a peaceful means, it is necessary for our cadres and combatants to maintain an ever higher vigilance and resolutely strive to overcome all obstacles and difficulties and together sacrifice as much intelligence and energies as well as time as possible to contribute, ever more positively, to boosting production to create favorable conditions for our units to march forward step by step along the path of self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and self-building to guarantee the successful fulfillment of the historic tasks of the Army in the immediate future.

Security Work in Khammouane Province Discussed

BK1109144390 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Undated PASASON article: "National Defense and Public Security Maintenance Work in Khammouane Province"]

[Summary] "Recently, the military command of Khammouane Province held a meeting to review past experience, assess the situation in the province, and review the work performance of public security authorities in the past six months to determine certain strong points that should be further promoted and weak ones that must be immediately rectified." The meeting identified certain difficulties caused either by economic shortcomings or by certain bad elements who have sneaked into the country to create disturbances among the people.

"However, public security forces and personnel in the province have not remained idle but have paid close attention to carrying out patrol missions and suppression drives against the bad elements on 17 occasions, killing 11 of them and wounding or forcing the surrender of 19 others. Our public security forces also managed to seize from them 18 firearms of various types, two radio transceivers, and a quantity of ammunition."

Our public security combatants and cadres in the province also further heightened their sense of political awareness by frequently engaging in political study and discussions of the draft constitution and various laws. They also engaged extensively in building living quarters, raising livestock, and cultivating grain to become self-sufficient in food production.

Clandestine Radio Reports SRV Troop Movement

BK0909091990 (Clandestine) Radio Station of the Government for Liberation of the Lao Nation in Lao 0100 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Summary] "Reports from the battle front in the 3d military region [Savannakhet Province] said the mobilization of troops both from Vietnam and southern Laos to the northern region to fight against the people's armed forces struggling for democracy has been consistently carried out. Since 12 June this year, several convoys of trucks carrying troops and weapons from Vietnam have been spotted day and night along route no. 9—the blood-soaked and dreadful trail built by Vietnam for the purpose of swallowing up Laos."

What the Vietnamese are actively doing in Laos, such as the above-mentioned movement of troops and weapons onto Lao soil, shows that our country has now been under the control of the occupying Vietnamese forces. The Vietnamese are trampling Laos' sovereignty. Kaysone must admit the situation in Laos at present is similar to Laos' being under French rule in the past. The occupiers can plunder our country at will.

"According to an eye witness, on 12 and 13 July alone, 138 trucks were spotted entering Laos from Vietnam, carrying between 3,000 and 4,000 Vietnamese troops. This incident clearly shows us whether or not Vietnam has already swallowed up Laos. There are some 70,000 Vietnamese troops occupying Laos at present, while some (?400,000 Vietnamese) civilians have moved into Laos to settle here."

Philippines

U.S. Forces' Withdrawal After Sep 1991 Urged

HK1709111190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1102 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Manila, Sept 17 (AFP)—Philippine President Corazon Aquino said Monday that her government would work for the "orderly withdrawal" of U.S. forces from bases in the country after September 1991.

"It is now necessary for our government to work with the United States for an arrangement regarding the orderly withdrawal of their forces from our country," she said in a nationwide television address on the eve of talks on the future of the bases. She stood firm on the Philippine stand that the lease on Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, the largest U.S. military facilities overseas, expires on September 16, 1991.

Mrs. Aquino said the Philippines had reached a "crucial juncture" in its history and that she was "confident that we will succeed."

"The U.S. military facilities are an influential fact of our national life. But they are not the heart of our economy nor the soul of our political well-being," Mrs. Aquino said. "Certainly they do not define our society. So we must regard them in that light. They are important, but they are not everything," she added.

Protestor Shot, Wounded Outside U.S. Embassy

HK1609054090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0527 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Manila, Sept 16 (AFP)—A restaurant security guard shot and wounded a demonstrator near the U.S. Embassy here Sunday after police clashed with protestors demanding the immediate dismantling of U.S. military bases in the Philippines, witnesses said.

Police arrested the elderly guard after he shot and wounded one of the protestors being chased off by riot police from the U.S. mission. He told police he mistook the running figures for purse snatchers and fired.

The male demonstrator was rushed to a nearby hospital with a gunshot wound in his stomach. The shooting occurred shortly after riot police blocked about 15 left-wing labor activists attempting to demonstrate at the embassy gates.

The protestors were pushed back and scuffles arose when policemen armed with automatic rifles stepped out of a squad car and began frisking them. At least one home-made fragmentation bomb exploded in the ensuing chase, witnesses said.

The security guard rushed out from his desk and, intending to help the police with what he thought was a chase for thieves, shot at one of the fleeing demonstrators, witnesses said.

Police also arrested five of the demonstrators. Police have had to cope with protests almost daily at the U.S. Embassy ahead of talks on the post-1991 future of major U.S. military bases in the Philippines, which are set to begin sometime later this week.

More on Rally at U.S. Embassy

HK1709045990 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0350 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Live report by DWIZ field reporter to radio anchorman]

[Text] [Anchor] There is a report of shooting in a rally in front of the U.S. Embassy. Hello. Good morning. [Reporter] Thank you very much Comrade Doy. We rushed here to the stretch of Kalaw from Plaza Ferguson. There has been shooting and tear gas thrown here, which made us a little dizzy .

A group of students holding a peaceful demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy are running in different directions.

Earlier, we were at Plaza Ferguson, where a hunger strike was held. Right now, this group of demonstrators are running away chased by elements of the Western Police District anti-riot squad. The painful smoke from the tear gas has stretched to as far as Kalaw.

[Anchor] What is that noise? Is it one of those tear gas explosions or what?

[reporter] We are not sure. But when we were in Mendiola, we heard the same sound. However, we cannot assert if this is from a gun because we heard a series of the same sounds.

[Anchor] But have you seen anybody lying in blood.

[Reporter] No. At the moment and from my place, I could not see anybody wounded. But I have seen a student being carried away by policemen.

[Anchor] Arrested by the police?

[Reporter] Yes. Arrested by the police.

[Anchorman] Is this related to the bases.

[Reporter] If we recall, today is the start of the bases exploratory talks. And today, the students launch what they call the one-year countdown on the stay of the military bases, the agreement for which will expire in September 1991.

We also learned from listening to the students holding their peaceful demonstration, that they will continue to launch protests against the presence of the military bases. If we recall, this Wednesday, 19 September, is the death anniversary of Lean Alejandro [former chairman of the Nationalist Youth] and today they give honor to the goals and objectives of the late Lean.

From my place, I could see that the students are...

[Anchor, interrupting] What is written on their banners?

[Reporter] This group includes the League of Filipino Students, KADENA [Youth for Democracy and Nationalism], the New Nationalist Alliance, and other sectors.

Last might, I attended a concert at the Folk Arts where a nationalist concert was held. And last night, this group held a noise barrage to start their so-called one-year countdown on the military bases' expiration.

[Anchor] It seems that they will hold daily activities in protest against the presence of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

[Reporter] That's what we learned and they will intensify this. While the exploratory talks continue, they will likewise go on with their actions.

[Anchorman] How many students are there?

[Reporter] Less than a thousand, probably around 800 students. They are running away. Even bystanders are joining them. And buses are turning away because they do not know what the noise was, whether from guns or what. But there is much white smoke from tear gas at the stretch of T.M. Kalaw here in Manila. The students continue to run in different directions. Standby for further developments, Doy. From Kalaw, this is Balita Patrol 11, Fernan Imberga DWIZ Radio Balita reporting.

Bases Issue Said Not Related to Rebel Problem

HK0809083990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon announced that the talks on the military bases have nothing to do with the communist insurgency problem, adding that the bases issue will not figure in any talks between the government and the communist rebels.

Bengzon made the statement in anticipation of demands by communist rebels for the removal of U.S. military bases. However, Bengzon noted that the communist movement may make a formal request for inclusion of the issue once the second round of peace talks begins.

Here is a statement by Secretary Bengzon:

[Begin Bengzon recording in English] If the NDF [National Democratic Front] thinks that that stand is something that is encouraging to them and because of that, they would like to lay down their arms, why not? But I will say categorically that we do not agree, we do not agree that the bases facilities' removal, if it comes to that, will strengthen the insurgents for the simple reason that the bases have no bearing on our handling of the insurgency problem. [end recording]

Manglapus, Bengzon Discuss Bases Talks

HK1409140190 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in English 1430 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus and Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon by television host Jose Mari Velez in public affairs program "Velez This Week" on forthcoming military bases treaty talks—live or recorded, place and date not given]

[Text] [Velez] Good evening. Welcome to "Velez This Week." Tonight we focus once again on the American military bases here in the Philippines. This is the second time this program is going to focus on this particular issue, but it is a bit different tonight, because now we are nearing that moment of decision. A historic moment or, as some people would put it, a historic opportunity. With the possible exception of those of you who may be celebrating your 90th birthday or 100th, all of us who have lived in this country have the presence [as heard] of the American military bases. Clark was there since 1903, Subic since 1907, and it was only in 1947 when they finally came up with this Military Bases Agreement. They have been there a long, long time, and incidentally from that time and even after the 1947 agreement up to 1979, there was no such thing as rent or aid for that matter. In other words, no money was paid for those bases.

Now, in 1947 when this agreement was entered into, it was an executive agreement. And this is going to be a crucial point. If and when a new agreement is reached, it is going to be a treaty. It involves some 250,000 hectares of land and there are 23 base sites. And in 1959, under the Bohlen-Serrano Agreement, 17 of those base sites were returned to the Philippines. And it was only in 1966, which was a very critical year, that under the Ramos-Rusk Notes that we finally reduced the so-called 99-year lease from 1947 and starting in 1965 and will therefore expire, the 25-year lease will expire on September 16 1991. [sentence as heard]

Now some of you will remember that just a few months ago, the Philippine Government already served a notice of termination on the bases, and this was during the first round of the exploratory talks with the panel headed by our guests today. We would like to seek some answers and be enlightened on some of the issues which will still be taken up with respect to this final round of talks. It is a long round, as I was reminded by one of the panelists tonight, but nevertheless it is the final round. And we have no less than the chairman of the panel, the Philippine panel to negotiate—we have Secretary Raul Manglapus, secretary of foreign affairs, and the vice chairman of that panel, we have the secretary of health. We are going to ask him why he was in the panel, because other than the health issues—anyway, Secretary Alfredo Bengzon.

When we come back, we will start our questions. [commercial break]

Secretay Manglapus, we will start with you, and let me ask you this right off, because this is probably the heart of the issue. There will be, some time next week—and if you would like to inform, we would be happy to know exactly when, and if not, we will understand—but some time next week, you will resume the talks with Mr. Armitage. Is it intended to conclude a treaty that would then extend the stay of military bases in the country that we are entering into this kind of negotiations?

[Manglapus] Perhaps, first of all, I should say that the word resume is probably not a perfect description of what is going to happen because the talks that we held last month had their own character. They were exploratory. And we agreed at that time in a joint statement that we will then hold discussions, more formal ones, that would discuss the whole range of Philippines-American relations. In addition, we said that these discussions could lead to a treaty of friendship, cooperation, and security.

[Velez] Fine, let us just leave aside the many aspects of this whole range of Philippines-U.S. relations because that would somehow cloud the issue that we are trying to get enlightened on, which is the bases. Now, let me premise my question this way. Under Article 18, Section 25 of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, the exact wording is: After the expiration in 1991 of the agreement between the Republic of the Philippines [RP] and the United States of America concerning the military bases, no foreign troops, bases, or facilities will be allowed in the Philippines except under a treaty that is certified by the Senate.

Are we getting this? Are we discussing that?

[Manglapus] Are we discussing a treaty?

[Velez] A treaty for that purpose of extending, allowing American bases, troops, or facilities in the Philippines?

[Manglapus] First, let me say we ought not to dismiss the fact that we agreed that we are going to talk about the whole range. We are not taking lightly the other aspects besides the security aspects. We are expecting that the United States will make its proposals on the security aspects and also, we expect them...we shall talk about the whole range of Philippine-American relations.

I don't know what else...

[Velez] What I am trying to get at is, very simply, if you don't reach any agreement, then they cannot stay here one day longer after 1991. Is that correct?

[Manglapus] That is correct. That is our position.

[Manglapus] It is the United States that asked that these talks be held. We agreed that they be held and we signified that agreement in a joint statement that we issued last night. Therefore, when we open these negotiations, it is our expectations that the United States panel will make its proposals. Once these proposals are made, then it will be our...it will be expected of us, the Philippine panel, to study the proposals.

[Velez] We have not gotten those yet?

[Manglapus] No.

[Velez] Secretary Bengzon, let me ask you. Through the years, well, you are vice chairman of the panel and you are also vice chairman of the Presidential Committee on the Bases. Through the years, President Aquino has maintained this open options policy, stance on the bases. In other words, she would not let it be known exactly what her position is. We have reached this point in time where presumably decisions will have to be made. Other than having served the notice of termination, has President Aquino made up her mind on the bases and, if so, has she conveyed it to you?

[Bengzon] I think, Mari, it would be accurate to say that considering the work that has gone on for over a year now, that in fact the government is quite clear-minded about the direction it ought to pursue on the matter of the military facilities. Obviously, for the... because of the nature of the issue, there is such a thing as saying the right thing at the right time, but we do enter into these talks quite prepared and quite clear-minded about the parameters that will be used by the Philippine panel in discussing with the American panel and reacting to whatever issues they want to raise.

[Velez] Let me see. I know we are going around and around this issue and I am willing to go around it. You talked about the direction. After all these times, the studies that you have made, the parameters and so on, tell us the direction that you are taking.

[Bengzon] Well, Secretary Manglapus made a point earlier that what in the joint communique was called a new relationship—and let me underscore that point because it is a very important point. You see historically, the relationship between the United States and the Philippines has been largely dominated, at least on the point of view of the American Government, by the interests in the military facilities. Having sent a notice of termination, we are bringing down the curtain on that relationship and we are saying that henceforth, we are going to have a wider and broader perspective, and that whatever is arrived at with regards the issue of security will have to be arrived at from that larger perspective.

[Velez] The notice of termination did not say, for instance, in a lease contract, well, your lease is expiring next year. I want you to know that I am no longer extending it because either I am going to use the premise myself as owner of the property and under any terms that you may offer, I am not extending it. Now we did not say that, did we? In other words, we just said that there is this notice of termination. That is why we are asking whether in fact what we are facing here now is: Now let me hear from you, your proposals? Is that what we are saying, Secretary Manglapus?

[Manglapus] Yes.

[Velez] And on the basis of that proposal, then we will study and evaluate it.

[Manglapus] Correct.

[Velez] So a firm decision has not been made not to have the bases.

[Manglapus] It would depend. As Secretary Bengzon has pointed out, we enter into these talks already clear in our minds about the position that we will be taking. However, since the proposals have not yet been put forth by the American panel—they will be hopefully during the opening of the session—then we are not in a position to articulate them.

[Velez] When we come back, we will ask about these variations of the U.S. proposals as they may come, just to speculate. [commercial break]

[Velez] Let me just ask Secretary Bengzon. He might want to add something to the issue of...we are not just waiting for the Americans to come up with the proposals. We must have something in mind as we approach these talks. You want to enlighten us further on that?

[Bengzon] Yes, Mari. Just one point before I say that. And that is that it is probably not correct to say that the present agreement may be extended. I think the present agreement cannot be extended. I think the language is quite clear there. Okay?

Now, the second point is this: Whatever proposal is made, we should look at from probably three aspects. First, the aspect of what is politically acceptable to us. Second, from the aspect of what is economically bearable. And third, from the aspect of what serves the needs of both the Philippines and the United States. So you might say that those are the parameters.

[Velez] You have had one year of intensive study with different kinds of councils, groups, and so on and the best minds in the executive. What is politically acceptable? Have you determined it yet? And economically bearable?

[Bengzon] Okay, let us talk about the second first and start with some facts. We do know that the contribution to the economy arising out of these facilities is something in the order of about 14.5 billion pesos a year. And that roughly about 80,000 people are employed in these facilities and another maybe 20,000 to 30,000 in the communities in which these facilities are located. The contribution to GNP of this 14.5 billion is about 1.9 annually.

So these are what you might call the quote economic benefits, and certainly, we have to make provisions in order to cushion, minimize and make more manageable whatever dislocations that may be brought about as a result of these facilities being removed.

[Velez] That is why we have the bases conversion plan.

[Bengzon] That is correct.

[Velez] Which has been completed.

[Bengzon] Well, the final submission will be on October 4.

[Velez] Okay, what is politically acceptable?

[Bengzon] Maybe I should ask Secretary Manglapus.

[Manglapus] What is...?

[Velez] In relation to the bases. Because Secretary Bengzon alluded to political acceptability, economic bearability and we can compute the economic bearability. I am just curious whether you have delved into the question of what might be politically acceptable. By politically acceptable, I am particularly referring to the Senate. That if you should conclude a new agreement which, for it to become a treaty, must be submitted to the Senate for ratification. In particular relation to bases, what would be politically acceptable?

[Manglapus] First, I think it should be stressed that we are engaged in constant consultation with members of the Senate as well as of the House on this matter. And as we progress with these talks, these consultations will continue. It is obvious that any scenario for the completion of these talks and the final acceptance of whatever the product will be will depend on the ratification of the Senate and perhaps a referendum as provided for in the Constitution. And so what is politically acceptable, of course, is what the people and the Senate would accept.

We all are acting in the national interest and as these talks progress, that national interest and the consensus of the various elements that in the end will have to rule and ratify this agreement will emerge. At the moment, it would be telegraphing in patches as we were here. We specified...we've got to be more specific than that.

[Velez] Speaking of telegraphing, Mr. Secretary, let me give a shape to these parameters. About three weeks ago, two newspapers carried a so-called leak of a so-called proposed draft treaty, a general treaty of friendship and cooperation and, of course, including the security arrangements. And in fact, a few days ago, one of the members of your panel was supposed to have been removed as having been suspected of being the source of that leak. Now, what does it say?

Aside from all the general things, it does speak of Clark going in 1991, Subic staying up to 1994. Of course, no nukes, in accordance with Article 2, Section 8 of our Constitution, where we don't allow nuclear weapons in our territory, and the base commander being given greater accessibility to so-called secret areas so he can confirm that there are no secret weapons. In short, how does this document look to you?

[Manglapus] There could not have been a leak because there is no official document already prepared for presentation, as it were, at the talks. So there could not have been a leak. What exist, of course, are a lot of studies and suggestions, proposals, none of which are official. And any number of these papers could find their way to the public, to the press, without violating any of the confidence that would have to be kept by the panel because there is no such thing as an official paper of that sort.

Second, the person that you referred to as having been removed from the panel. In the first place, he has never been on the panel. That is to say, even in the exploratory talks, he was just a resource person. He is a member of the Department of Foreign Affairs and we will continue to regard him as resource person, but not as a member of the panel because he is not a member of the panel at all.

[Velez] Let me just push this a little bit further. We mentioned earlier, or you mentioned earlier, that we are waiting for the proposal from the U.S. side. While on the other hand, it seems that on our side, what you had in mind was a broad treaty, which I assume is not the thinking of the American side, at least at the outset. I do not know if they have...

[Manglapus] No, no. No, I have to explain that point. In fact, the very first mention of dealing with the whole range of Philippines-American relations came from one of the members of the U.S. panel in the exploratory talks. But of course, this was also something that we already had in mind anyway. And, in fact, we had already pinpointed a precedence for it—another treaty that the United States entered into with another country.

[Velez] But do I take it that neither side has a copy or a working paper or a draft of this broad treaty? I mean when you sit down next week with Mr. Armitage—pretty high level—is it the first time you are going to be seeing a working paper?

[Manglapus] When we sit down with Mr. Armitage, as I said, we expect that he and his panelists will make us proposals. It is at that time that our panel will then be able to use whatever material is now available to us, and whatever parameters we have already agreed upon to then apply these materials and these parameters to the proposals made by the American panel. And out of that will emerge—if indeed the talks progress to the point where we might be talking of a treaty—then the formulation of that treaty will emerge.

[Velez] Secretary Bengzon, you have been studying and living with this issue for more than a year now. You must have certain scenarios and certain...when a person negotiates, you kind of anticipate or speculate what the other party is going to ask for. What do you think they are going to ask for?

[Bengzon] First of all, let me add to what Secretary Manglapus just said in terms of entering into these talks with a broader range of interests and issues by saying that other than discussing the military facilities, we will be discussing such issues as trade, aid, veterans' affairs, science and technology, health concerns, environment and so forth. So those are examples of what we mean by broadening the relationships. And there has been considerable work done by us along this line. And I believe also by the Americans.

[Velez] When we come back, we will get back to the military aspects of that study. [commercial break]

Secretary Bengzon, we probably can put up another program on the broad range of American-Philippines relations. But purely on the military bases, we already know from—it has been stated, it has been pursued—that the Americans want to stay. Because I guess if they do not want to stay, this whole conversation will be very different. In short, they have tried to show how needed they are and we need them and all of those. In short, they want to stay. But what is not very clear to us is whether you in the panel will agree to their staying—I am familiar with the treaty requirements, but not the legal aspects—whether you will agree to the idea of their staying or extending their stay. And if so, under what terms and conditions?

[Bengzon] Obviously, Mari, you don't expect me to answer that because it is not in the national interest, nor is it strategically wise. But let me try another approach by armchairing this. After all, let us look at the range of possibilities, okay?

From their side, it is possible that they would say: We want to stay, all conditions remaining the same. That is one possibility. Okay. I think perhaps we can say that, even categorically, that the status quo is no longer tenable. Things have changed.

Then you enter into all sorts of permutations. Permutations being there are a number of these facilities. There is Subic, there is Clark, and there are the other minor ones. And there is the question of the profile on how those facilities are used. So you have here a whole range of facilities and what we have—that is precisely why I pointed out that we have to look at whatever is proper from those perspectives. What is politically acceptable to us and economically bearable at this time in our history? I think those are very important questions.

[Velez] Turning to Secretary Manglapus. From the mood in the exploratory talks last May, so much has happened. The July 16 earthquake on our part, the Middle East crisis, and, of course, for all of us, there is no denying this. Do you think the mood, the attitude, the perceptions would change in this coming talks? As far as the Americans are concerned, have the bases become more valuable or have they become less valuable and so on and so forth?

[Manglapus] Well, they have been coming out with statements in Washington about the importance of these bases to the United States' strategy. Whether or not the Middle East crisis has occurred, the material distributed by the United States officially, even now around this country, has been to emphasize the importance of these bases for the defense of the United States. Of course, they will add that it is also good for the defense of the Philippines. That is really a forward defense strategy of the United States.

[Velez] One prejudicial question which I would like to hear from you whether it has been resolved is the matter of the shortfall, something like $222 million which we asserted was a shortfall. Have they complied to that?

[Manglapus] They have not admitted that it is a shortfall. At the same meeting where they were not admitting it was a shortfall, they were also agreeing to give us something to satisfy the shortfall.

[Velez] That was just very recently. We were given a shopping list.

[Manglapus] There are those items, and we can assure you that we would not be entering into these talks were we not satisfied that the United States is living up to its obligations under the current agreement.

[Velez] Before I get to you, Secretary Bengzon, while I am with Secretary Manglapus, there is just one thing. People are asking whether the talks will be held here and that you will stick to it being signed here, citing your 1988 signing in Washington with Mr. Shultz.

[Manglapus] The talks certainly will be held here. We are opening them here. It is no secret that the United States would like to alternate the venue. It is also admitted that there had been instances where negotiations have been held on alternative venues. Right now, there is one such negotiation going on between the United States and Singapore. Just the other day, I was talking to the Singaporean ambassador, and he reminded me that that is so with regard to their negotiations. However, it is our position at the moment that all the talks should be held here.

[Velez] And concluded here?

[Manglapus] And of course, concluded here.

[Velez] Secretary Bengzon, you wanted to add something.

[Bengzon] Yes, just to add to the clarification of the issue of the shortfall. The amount specified in the joint communique is 169 million, not 222. And secondly, the status of that is that on the matter of military equipment, a list has been given. It has been examined and evaluated by our defense people. And I think they are ready to make a trip precisely to identify, to evaluate on site those that they have identified as useful for us.

On the matter of medical equipment, we have also been given such a list. We are evaluating this, and if we find any of them acceptable, then we will be ready to make the same on-site inspection.

[Velez] At the beginning of the show, I did say that I was going to ask you, you are the secretary of health and you are the vice chairman of this panel. You are the vice chairman of the presidential committee on the bases. Why is that? Are there so many health-related problems to the bases?

[Bengzon] [chuckles] Well, some people have used that as an explanation. You know, the question of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, seems to be of relatively high concentration in these facilities. I don't know if that is in fact the accurate reason...

[Manglapus] Let me interrupt here because you are imposing on his modesty. His modesty does not permit him to make a full explanation on his presence at the panel. Of course, you know, you are aware of his work in the peace commission. He is the head of the peace commission, which is essentially a negotiating job which he has been doing since 1986. Also, I can say this candidly as a member of the cabinet, he is regarded in the cabinet as perhaps the best organized mind, analytical mind in the cabinet. Articulate mind, too. And that has been judged by the president, and we agree with her, to be eminent qualifications for his being in the panel.

[Velez] That is the reason why you are actually handling most of this managerial organizational work. Is that correct?

[Bengzon] Well, Mari, there are really...it is not known to very many people that there are a tremendous amount of work and preparation that has gone on.

[Velez] Let me interrupt you and I will give you a chance to tell us all about this, right after this short break. [commercial break]

Secretary Bengzon, tell us all about the work that you and the group have been putting into this.

[Bengzon] Most people are familiar with the panel headed by Secretary Manglapus because all of the past talks do have a panel. But not very many people are familiar with the president's committee on the bases, which is headed by the executive secretary and has something like, I think, 12 members, including the secretary of defense, national security director, Secretary Factoran, Secretary Drilon, the local governments interest, represented by Governor Guiao, and private sectors, Mr. Lazaro and Mr. Del Rosario. This group functions as the president's think tank.

Then there is the legislative-executive bases council, whose mandate is quite specific, and that is to prepare conversion plans so that whatever the dislocations are brought about are minimized and handled. And relative to the plan is the operationalization of those plans which is now being overseen by the special operations team headed by Secretary Estuar.

And finally, there are something like 21 departments and agencies of government, each one of them has what we call an agency bases specialist—the person, either at under secretary or assistant secretary level, with a specific interest and expertise. All of this work obviously has to be coordinated, orchestrated and eventually laid out before the president for her decision.

[Velez] And you are the one who orchestrated all of them?

[Bengzon] Not just myself. I think all of us have something to do with it.

[Velez] Let me ask Secretary Manglapus. As you go into this crucial final round, what are some of the concerns which might weigh heavily in your mind? I am referring for instance, would you consider that the Philippines is undergoing particularly difficult economic conditions? At a time when you are entering into these talks, you are looking at very serious economic difficulties, business difficulties, financial difficulties, the Middle East problem, the July 16 earthquake, the coup last December, and all these rumors about coups and the bombings. All of these things, some of which, by the way - except probably the earthquake, I have not heard anyone blame the CIA yet for the earthquake—but the bombings and all of these things, yes.

Maybe they will come around to it. But what I am saying is, looking at your country today and its problems and you enter into these negotiations where you might just possibly cut off and therefore lose the 15 billion that you were referring to. Does that weigh heavily in your mind, Mr. Secretary?

[Manglapus] Yes, I guess we all have to admit that this is perhaps not the best or the most propitious time to enter into negotiations which would include the status of the military facilities. However, I think we ought to find out some of these happenings, if you will, that one might consider to weigh heavily on one side or the other. We might call them double-edged really. For instance, the happening in the Middle East on the one hand has caused very heavy economic damage on our government. On the other hand, you have seen the comments that have come out since then, that what is going on there seems to have strengthened, they say, the hand of the Philippine panel in the forthcoming talks.

So these things can be availed of by either side as arguments or as morale builders for themselves, depending on how you look at it. Therefore, I think that while it may appear to some that this is not the best time to undertake these talks, I think we can...both panels can look beyond the current problems that they are both facing into the future and weigh each other's position in the long term.

[Velez] The other one, for instance, if I may cite another, is the particular constitutional provision in our Constitution which requires a treaty. Many people, in fact, Senate President Salonga a few weeks back did come out in a speech and said that if this new agreement, broad treaty or whatever it is, will involve an extension or continued stay of the U.S. bases, it will not get the two-thirds required for ratification. That is the Philippine Senate. Since that same provision also requires that the other contracting state must consider it as a treaty, and under American Constitution, it must go through the same process of ratification, we still have a problem with the American Senate which is their problem

In short, whatever you enter into stands a chance of not being ratified.

[Manglapus] Oh, yes, we have always accepted that prospect, that possibility. We have even accepted the possibility that talks may not yield anything and we could wind up not agreeing on anything because of the honest differences of positions on the various issues that are involved. This makes sense. But the problem that you mentioned, for instance, that our Constitution requires that the other side also consider it a treaty. Well, that is a weight that weighs more heavily on the other side. And as I have stated, and I think we all agree from the very beginning, that if we are holding these talks at all, it is because the other side has asked for it. We agreed to hold them but it is the other side which asked for it.

[Velez] Secretary Bengzon, if we don't talk, there will be no more bases. Is that more or less how it will go? And this just an extreme. Of course, we are going to be talking next week. But if nobody talks, the notice of termination will take effect, will it not?

[Bengzon] That is right. Secretary Manglapus has said that if by, say, January next year, nothing on the horizon becomes clear about further arrangements, then I think there is a provision to activate, mechanisms for disengaging is fully in order.

[Velez] Is that more or less the time frame you are looking at? In other words, up to the end of this year?

[Manglapus] Yes, there is a provision in the current agreement which says that if the time for the end of use of the bases—that is the language—by the United States has come up, then both governments should sit down and agree on procedures for the withdrawal of the United States. That time, in my view, will have to come months before September 16 1991.

[Velez] Secretary Manglapus, do you believe that the Philippines and the United States can continue good relations, beneficial, cordial, and so on, if the bases treaty is not executed or is not accomplished?

[Manglapus] The United States, whose negotiator, Mr. Armitage, made that very clear last May, that if we ask them to go, or we don't have any agreement, then they will go. And in fact, they added rather self-confidently, that even if they go, they will remain a Pacific power. And if we rely on that assurance on their part, then I think the answer to your question is yes, we can have good relations even if the United States withdraw.

[Velez] Secretary Bengzon, do your studies support this—by support, there are certain figures you can quantify in the Philippine Aid Plan, in the IMF, in the World Bank, in the credit and the loans and so on, wherein we do go to the U.S. for support. Do you think we can get sufficient support if we don't extend the bases?

[Bengzon] Let me answer that, Mari, I would not say in a round-about way, but in a more holistic way.

First, let me point out that the relationship between the Philippines and the U.S. has historic roots, starting, which started, at the pinnacle of our revolution and at the beginning of imperialist move by the Americans. Now what the bases talks gives us is the opportunity to reexamine and redefine the links with a country whose influence on our national life has been so dominant. It is also interesting that such an opportunity comes at a time in our national life when there are these threats to our new democracy and this is also a time of great international turmoil.

Obviously, we cannot look at this relationship simply in terms of pesos and dollars because we do not live by bread alone. Nor can we look at this relationship only or exclusively from the point of view of pride and dignity, because progress and advancements cannot simply come from the spirit. And so it is my opinion that the average Filipino probably would like to look at these talks as an opportunity to articulate our national interest, determine our national interest, articulate it to an ally, and in that process, perhaps discover the depth of our strength and our wisdom. And in that effort, it is very important that the whole country comes together, because this is not an easy task. We would like to come away from these talks quite satisfied that we have asserted what is our just view and, at the same time, satisfied that it is possible to assert ourselves and maintain a friend and an ally. It is not easy but I think if we do that together...

[Velez] I will give you a chance to add to that, but I believe what you said before the show, you have been living with this issue for more than one year. We will come right back after this. [commercial break]

Secretary Manglapus, do you want to...?

[Manglapus] Yes, again, in answer to your question: Can we have friendly relations with the United States even if the bases should go? I think we should realize that the United States has its own pragmatism and its policies. It does not want to remain too long an enemy of a former enemy, certainly an enemy which was a former threat. That is happening in the case of Vietnam, in the case of the Soviet Union, relations with the United States.

Just this morning, we had a visit from the new foreign minister of Thailand, and we talked about how Thailand had gotten the United States to withdraw from Thailand bases in the mid-1970s after the fall of Vietnam, and how that there were fearful warnings about the future of relationships between Thailand and the United States. Well, you know what is happening. Thailand and the United States are very good friends indeed because the United States has its own national interests. And it sees that it is not in its national interest to remain unfriendly for too long with a country, as it is now doing with Vietnam or the Soviet Union. That is exactly what it will do. It will resume good relations. I don't see their treatment of the Philippine situation would be any different.

[Velez] We just have a minute or so left. Do you think, Secretary Manglapus, are you satisfied, are you convinced that we have defined our national interest in specific relation to this military base question as you enter into negotiations? And that this government supports or it is the conception of this government?

[Manglapus] Yes, and let me say that in defining the national interest, we have to consider the various sectors of our population. We have to consider that we are a pluralist society and that not one person can decide what is in the national interest. We must...perhaps it is a blessing that we do have the Constitution to guide us, a fairly well-defined procedure outlined in the Constitution to determine whether in fact we can agree to the existence of foreign military troops in this country. And having that already to guide us, I think it won't be too difficult for us to encapsulate the national interest as we go along with these talks.

[Velez] Secretary Bengzon, are you satisfied with the degree and magnitude and scope of consultations in your consensus taking that you have undertaken in your studies throughout the year?

[Bengzon] On the whole, I would say yes.

[Velez] How broad is it?

[Bengzon] Well, certainly within the government sector, both within the executive branch—I have talked about the 21 agencies; with our colleagues in Congress, both the Senate and House; and outside the government sector, with various groups, academe, and cause-oriented groups. People and organizations that have a long-standing interest and deep expertise in this. Not all of these consultations are in the limelight, but I can assure that they have been going on.

[Velez] Would you like to have a final word on this before we say good night to you?

[Manglapus] Yes, perhaps we should say thank you on behalf of the government. This has been a unique opportunity to dialogue with a distinguished member of the media like you. It is not often that we get this opportunity and we thank you for the time you have given to the side of the government on this issue.

[Velez] Thank you very much, Secretary Manglapus, Secretary Bengzon. And to all of you, good night.

Guerrillas 'Planning To Kill' Americans

HK1509092890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Angeles, Philippines, Sept 15 (AFP)—Communist guerrillas are planning to kill American personnel based near here to disrupt talks on the future of U.S. military facilities starting Monday, a top security official said Saturday.

Lieutenant Colonel Julius Yarcia said all security forces in this northern city just outside U.S. Clark Air Base have gone on alert following intelligence reports that the rebels planned to kill any Americans they came across.

Security forces have also been ordered to step up their intelligence and monitoring activities and all leaves have been cancelled, said Lt. Col. Yarcia, the Angeles security chief.

U.S. personnel in Clark have already been placed under tight security restrictions. Their off-base movements have been limited due to fears that urban assassins of the communist New People's Army (NPA) will try to kill more Americans before the bases negotiations start in Manila on Monday.

U.S. military spokesmen in Clark refused to comment on Lt. Col. Yarcia's report.

The talks between the Philippines and the United States are to focus on the future of Clark and nearby Subic Naval Base. The lease on the bases expires next year.

The NPA, which opposes the presence of the U.S. bases, has killed at least eight U.S. military personnel in the Philippines since 1987. Two U.S. airmen were shot dead near this city last May in order to disrupt the opening of the first stage of the U.S. bases talks that month. Leftist groups widely suspected of ties with the NPA are also planning street protests against the negotiations.

In a separate development, military spokesmen confirmed Saturday that six NPA guerrillas, including a provincial commander, were killed Thursday by government troops in the southern province of Bukidnon.

The soldiers, acting on a tip from a civilian, attacked a group of 12 guerrillas as they were eating, killing Bukidnon NPA Commander Reinerio Caga and five of his followers, they said. The soldiers managed to capture a Browning automatic rifle and an M-14 rifle but the six other guerrillas managed to escape, the spokesmen added.

Also on Saturday, the communist umbrella group warned that it would "wage massive protests" if the government raised retail oil prices.

The National Democratic Front (NDF), an insurgent coalition which includes the NPA, said it strongly urged the government to heed its call "for an immediate moratorium on oil price increases in order not to create a situation that could seriously impede economic rehabilitation."

The call was made in an uncharacteristic statement sent to local news agencies. The NDF usually refrains from addressing the government on economic issues in their statements. The front called for the nationalization of the oil industry, which it said would solve the oil price problem, but made no mention of the Gulf crisis and the increase in crude oil prices on world markets.

The government plans to raise retail oil prices, which have remained among the lowest in Asia despite the Gulf crisis. Leftist groups and labor and transport organizations have been threatening to protest if the price hike pushes through. Oil price increases in the Philippines have traditionally been followed by large street protests and in recent years by coup attempts by rightist military renegades.

Communist Insurgents Reject Piecemeal Cease-Fire

BK1609102290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1007 GMT 16 Sep 90

[By Cecilia Quiambao]

[Text] Manila, Sept 16 (AFP)—Communist guerrillas here Sunday rejected a piecemeal cease-fire with the Philippine Government and challenged President Corazon Aquino to come up with a "political agenda" for talks leading to permanent peace.

The Alex Boncayao Brigade, the Manila-based assassination unit of the communist New People's Army (NPA), charged that the government offered peace with the insurgents only so that the armed forces could concentrate on crushing right-wing military rebels.

Mrs. Aquino last week ordered the armed forces to suspend "offensive military operations" in Manila and large parts of the northern Philippines which were severely affected by the July 16 killer earthquake.

"Mrs. Aquino's cease-fire declaration is insincere and insidious," brigade leader Sergio Romero told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in an interview. He said the NPA's unilateral truce declaration in areas affected by the quake remained in effect, but warned that if the military made good its threat to continue to arrest communist rebels, "we will also continue punitive actions against those listed in our standing order."

Mr. Romero said he was speaking on behalf of the brigade and not for the national leadership of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines, the mother organization of the NPA. But he claimed the brigade's position did not deviate from the insurgents' policy in that they both wanted peace talks so long as Mrs. Aquino came up with a "political agenda" that would address land reform, the U.S. bases in the Philippines, and the root causes of poverty.

The NPA declared a unilateral truce in devastated areas right after the July 16 quake. A few days later, senior Aquino aides met with lawmakers with access to the insurgents to discuss long-term prospects for peace after a 21-year guerrilla war.

The insurgents' political organization, the National Democratic Front (NDF), on Thursday [13 September] declared itself "open and ready to engage in talks with the government," adding that it wanted to go beyond "two-way talks" to include right-wing rebels who have mounted six coup attempts against Mrs. Aquino.

"If the purpose of the cease-fire with the NDF is to give the government a breathing spell on attacks coming from its left flank, so it can concentrate its forces against the military rebels on its right flank, we cannot agree to such a cease-fire," Mr. Romero said.

The peace overtures from both sides came ahead of talks in Manila later this week between Philippine and American officials on the future of U.S. military bases in this former U.S. colony.

Mr. Romero denied that the immediate dismantling of the bases was a rebel precondition for peace talks. "If they want to talk, we will talk," he said. The NDF had earlier said it would declare a unilateral truce if Mrs. Aquino publicly announced that the lease on the U.S. bases will not be renewed after it expires in 1991.

Mr. Romero suggested "secret talks without media coverage" or peace negotiations "without a cease-fire" to allay the military's fears that the insurgents would use the truce for propaganda and to consolidate their forces. The talks "can even be held in a neutral country," he added.

Bomb Explodes Outside Bank in Suburban Manila

HK1609025290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0234 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Manila, Sept 16 (AFP)—A bomb exploded outside a bank in the Philippine capital early Sunday, injuring one person and causing damage to the bank and several nearby buildings, police said.

The blast shattered the glass facade and ruptured the ceiling of the Pilipinas Bank branch in Mandaluyong District, which was closed at that time, police Captain Sebastian Daban said at the scene.

The blast, which dug a 15-inch wide crater in front of the bank, also broke glass at nearby structures, and flying shards injured a security guard. The injured guard, Melvin Siazon, told police he saw a taxi speeding away from the building shortly before the explosion. Police had no suspects and could not immediately determine the type of explosive used.

It was the 25th bombing incident in the capital in the past month.

President Corazon Aquino has blamed right-wing military rebels who have mounted five coup attempts against her of being behind the bombings, saying they were reduced to terrorist activities because they were no longer capable of mounting another coup attempt. On Friday she said she was willing to hold peace talks with the renegades if they stopped the bombing campaign.

Commentator Views Possibility of Martial Law

HK1409074990 Quezon City DZEC Eagle Broadcasting Corporation Radio in Tagalog 0200 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The first topic I wish to discuss with you this morning is this report which has been hogging our headlines and discussions these last few days. This topic is that which concerns the declaration of martial law. Why is it that reports concerning the possible declaration by Mrs. Aquino of martial law are circulating? My fellow men haven't you noticed that day in, day out, this topic is always in the newspapers, on the radio, and a favorite topic of conversation. What gives more credibility to the possibility of declaring martial law is the incident where the Mrs Aquino's National Security Adviser, General Rafael Ileto, has himself talked about this and is making speculation more rife about this possibility.

General Ileto was the one who made the explanation and announcement concerning the declaration of martial law when he faced the House Appropriations Commitee. When he testified, he said that the government would be forced to declare martial law if the peace and order situation in the country worsened the moment oil and gasoline prices increased.

What this means, my fellowmen, is that if due to the increase in the price of crude oil, strikes, demonstrations, and unrest ensued, martial law would be the government's answer and solution to such a situation.

Well, my fellowmen that seems to be such a harsh and cruel remedy. Although Mrs. Aquino has said that she will not declare martial law because the government is ready to face any problem and that she has confidence in the military's capability of responding to any situation, our doubts and fears cannot be eased by such assurances made by Mrs. Aquino because you know, sometimes, these pronouncements made by leaders are usually contradictory to what they actually do. We have experienced this several times in the past. We hear one thing and something else is actually done. That's why my fellowmen, it is my opinion that although Mrs. Aquino may now say that she will not declare martial law it is my opinion that such an announcement will not kill the talk and reports that martial law is a possibility.

You know I heard about this a week ago, where the scenario was being prepared by the government in anticipation of a negative reaction from the country to the price increase would supposedly be this: that if the citizenry, most especially those in the transport industry, conduct strikes and demonstrations, then Mrs. Aquino will declare martial law.

Well, this is such a harsh event if it takes place and I know that many of us will be saddenned if we are once again placed under martial law. Well, we hope that Mrs. Aquino will stay true to her word and that she will not do such a thing. Because you know, the implementation of martial law is no joking matter. This is not like the experiments that this administration is fond of conducting which are all trials of what they think are solutions, which when found ineffective are taken back.

You have witnessed this administration conduct so many experiments which put the citizens lives under their whim, like a trial and error process. Like for example, the daylight savings time, the change in traffic routes, the odd-even numbers for vehicles, which good things did not push through, and this latest suspension of the four-day school week which was experimented on for two weeks but recalled when found to be ineffective. In other words, these are simply experiments which the government is conducting.

Now, they might treat martial law in a similar way, make an experiment out of it also. I do not think that a serious matter, such as the proclamation of martial law should be considered and treated as an experiment by Mrs. Aquino. This is not something that should be toyed with.

Martial law is a different matter. That's why I believe that the administration should not experiment with this. Because what might turn out is that Mrs. Aquino will just hand over government power to the military on a silver platter. This would be worse than a coup where the military succeeds in wresting power from the government without even firing a single shot. Because martial law, my fellowmen, by whatever name you call it, is still military rule. In order for martial law to succeed the military must be the one in power, even if you say martial law with civilian supremacy. That is not what will take place and military rule will reign. [passage omitted]

LDP Reelects Leaders, Drafts Positions 14 Sep

HK1509054190 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] There was no change in the leadership of the Struggle of Philippine Democrats, or LDP, as Senator Neptali Gonzales and Congressman Jose Cojuangco were reelected president and secretary general of the party respectively, at the party's convention yesterday. The party leaders declined to discuss the issue of 1992 but said that they would support President Aquino if she decides to run for reelection. They also said that if President Aquino chooses not to do so, the LDP's presidential candidate will be chosen by the party's national electoral college.

Meanwhile, the LDP drafted its position on key issues. The members agreed to support the desynchronization of the 1992 elections and called for a shift to a parliamentary form of government. The LDP also lifted a ban on its members joining the Partnership movement.

Thailand

Officials Discuss Preparations for SNC Talks

Senior Official Confirms Meeting

BK1509014890 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Sep 90 p 3

[By Kunlachada Chaiphiphat]

[Text] Cambodian leaders agreed to hold a meeting of the newly-created interim authority, the Supreme National Council [SNC], here on Monday, a senior Thai official said yesterday.

M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry, said all Cambodian leaders agreed to attend the meeting after some intense lobbying yesterday afternoon.

The meeting, scheduled to take place at the abandoned Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok, would discuss the selection of delegates to the United nations, enforcement of a voluntary ceasefire, and electing the SNC chairman.

Kasemsamoson said resistance leaders from the tripartite coalition had rescheduled or cancelled their other engagements in order to join the meeting.

Khieu Samphan of the Khmer Rouge will cut short his stay in Beijing and will be back in Bangkok on Sunday by a special plane arranged by the Chinese Government, he said. Khieu left Bangkok for Beijing on a visit yesterday.

Former Premier Son Sann of the right-wing Khmer People's National Liberation Front and Chau Sen Kosal of the Sihanoukist FUNCINPEC will arrive in Bangkok from Paris on Sunday, while Prince Norodom Ranariddh, commander of the Sihanoukist army, had already cancelled his scheduled trip to Paris, according to Kasemsamoson.

Khieu, Son Sann, Chau Sen Kosal, and Ranariddh are members of the 12-man SNC. The other two SNC members from the resistance, Ieng Muli of the KPNLF and Khmer Rouge Defence Minister Son Sen are now in Bangkok.

Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen pledged to lead the other five SNC members from his side to join the meeting which he had proposed to Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan when they met here Wednesday evening.

Kasemsamson said Thailand had managed to convince the Cambodian leaders that their reluctance to hold the SNC meeting on Monday would prompt UN members to withdraw their support for the UN seat now held by the tripartite resistance coalition.

The UN General Assembly will convene its 45th meeting on September 18.

Any delay in the meeting of the SNC would jeopardize other parallel peace efforts, including the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the UN Security Council, which are arranging a comprehensive political settlement to restore peace in the war-ravaged country, Kasem said.

Informed sources said the meeting on Monday would elect resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk as its chairman—the 13th member of the SNC and would send him a letter to inform him of its decision.

Kasemsamoson, who also met separately with Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co and a diplomat from the Chinese Embassy in Bangkok yesterday to discuss Monday's meeting, said ASEAN countries had been informed of the meeting and they supported the Thai peace effort.

China and Vietnam are very active in having the Cambodian leaders convene their first SNC meeting.

Senior Official on SRV, PRC Roles

BK1509030690 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], scheduled to meet for the first time on Monday at the Cambodian Embassy, is expected to invite Prince Norodom Sihanouk to be its chairman, informed sources said yesterday.

A flurry of negotiations and preparations were underway yesterday in order to convene the first meeting of the SNC, Thai and Cambodian sources said.

The Sihanoukists yesterday issued a statement saying the resistance coalition had agreed to invite the prince to be the chairman of the SNC and urged Phnom Penh to join in.

Informed sources said the resistance contacted Phnom Penh Deputy Foreign Minister Sok An, who remained in Bangkok after Mr Hun Sen left for Cambodia on Thursday, explaining their decision.

The sources said the resistance urged that Phnom Penh join them in accepting the prince as chairman.

Mr Sok An reportedly told the resistance he would convey their message to Mr Hun Sen who had not yet responded.

Informed sources said, however, they were optimistic that Mr Hun Sen would agree to invite the prince to head the SNC.

Mr Hun Sen said during the Jakarta meeting on Monday that he had to respect Prince Sihanouk's decision to take a six-months leave of absence from politics. The prince announced his decision prior to the Jakarta talks.

But on Wednesday, Prince Sihanouk informed the Khmer Rouge that he is prepared to chair the SNC if chosen by its members, especially Mr Hun Sen.

Foreign Ministry permanent secretary M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsri said yesterday that China and Vietnam had agreed that the inaugural session to effectively activate the SNC should be held as soon as possible.

M.R. Kasemsamoson yesterday held talks with Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co and a counsellor from the Chinese Embassy in Bangkok.

M.R. Kasemsamoson said he was also informed that Prime Minister Son Sann of the resistance coalition, who is also a member of the SNC, will arrive in Bangkok tomorrow, while China promised to deliver Vice President Khieu Samphan, who is in Beijing, back in Bangkok in time for the meeting.

At the same time, Prince Sihanouk instructed another SNC member, Chau Sen Kosan, to fly from Paris to Bangkok.

Prince Sihanouk's son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, has postponed plans to fly to Paris over the weekend and is expected to remain in Bangkok until Monday.

Prince Sihanouk is not expected to come to Bangkok even if he is chosen as chairman of the SNC, the informed sources said.

"So all the 12 should come and sign a letter inviting Prince Sihanouk to assume chairmanship of the Council.

"They should also sign another letter addressed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, that they recognise Prince Sihanouk as chairman," M.R. Kasemsamoson said.

The letter to Mr Perez de Cuellar will equip the SNC with the credentials to represent Cambodia at the United Nations.

M.R. Kasemsamoson stressed that in order to avoid the danger of the Cambodian seat being challenged at this year's General Assembly, there must be Cambodian representation.

Another pressing issue was that in order to make the SNC functional, Prince Sihanouk must preside over the body, in response to the spirit of the Jakarta joint communique.

Reiterating the agreement reached among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the Jakarta communique stated that "the SNC will represent Cambodia externally and occupy the seat of Cambodia at the United Nations and in the UN specialised agencies, and in other international institutions and international conferences."

K.R. Kasemsamoson said that without Prince Sihanouk at the helm, the SNC would not be acceptable, and those who refused to endorse this decision would be seen as opposing national reconciliation and normalisation of Sino-Vietnamese relations as the two countries have already reached an agreement that brought about the achievement in Jakarta.

"Those who refuse to sign (the invitation for Sihanouk to chair the SNC) will be seen as insincere, with an intent to endanger the peace process and obstruct the change of the Indochina battlefield to a marketplace," M.R. Kasemsamoson said.

He added that the Jakarta agreement also represented perseverance on the part of China and Vietnam to normalise relations. Beijing tied normalisation with the Cambodian settlement.

M.R. Kasemsamoson said he also learnt that Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan was preparing a celebration to mark the success of the first SNC session on Monday evening at Government House.

To the question of Phnom Penh identifying ceasefire and cessation of foreign military aid as important issues, M.R. Kasemsamoson replied that these issues will be solved following the activation of the SNC.

The Soviet Union, China, US and Vietnam will continue negotiations towards the moratorium of aid in accordance with the Permanent Five peace plan.

Meanwhile, Australia is urging the Phnom Penh government to accept Prince Norodom Sihanouk as the chairman of the supreme national Council, AFP yesterday quoted diplomats in Hanoi as saying. Foreign Minister Gareth Evans also proposed that Cambodian premier Hun Sen become vice-chairman of the SNC.

If Prince Sihanouk was to become the 13th member of the SNC, it would give the resistance a one-seat majority in the council. But Mr Evans reassured Mr Hun Sen in a letter on Thursday that such a move would have little impact since the SNC is run by consensus, the diplomats said.

"Such an arrangement would contribute greatly to an atmosphere of mutual confidence and reconciliation among the Cambodian parties ... needed (for) a comprehensive solution," he said in the letter. "This arrangement would involve no practical disadvantage to the State of Cambodia because it is already agreed that all decisions of the SNC will be by consensus," Senator Evans added.

The 12-member SNC is now responsible for the sovereignty of Cambodia and is split evenly between representatives of the Phnom Penh government and those of the tripartite resistance.

Chatchai Adviser Confirms Meeting

BK1509144590 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] The first Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting of the four Cambodian factions will take place at the Cambodian Embassy in Thailand. Kraisak Chunhawan, a member of the team of policy advisers to the prime minister, said that he had contacted all four factions and they are all enthusiastic about the meeting. They will chose delegates to attend the UN session in New York in the name of Cambodia. They also wish to elect a chairman of the SNC. There was news that Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who is favored to be voted chairman of the SNC, is interested in the the coming meeting.

[Begin Kraisak recording] The urgent issues to be tackled are to appoint a delegation of the SNC to represent the Cambodian people at the United Nations and to send a letter of credentials to the United Nations before 18 September, Tuesday, the opening date of the UN session, concerning the seat of Cambodia at the United Nations. I believe that the meeting of the leaders of the four Cambodian factions will certainly be held on Monday. I have high hope for it. [end recording]

Spokesman Discusses Preparations

BK1609135690 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Government Spokesman Suwit Yotmani affirms that the prime minister, the permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and the prime minister's advisory team at Ban Phitsanulok have made earnest preparations for tomorrow's meeting of the four Cambodian factions. Speaking at his residence this afternoon, Suwit said preparations to ready the Cambodian Embassy for the meeting have been continuing in earnest. The preparations of the site will be completed tonight so that the site will be ready for the meeting tomorrow. Every Cambodian faction is ready to attend the meeting. Hun Sen, the Heng Samrin regime's prime minister, will arrive at 0900 tomorrow. The two major topics of the meeting are selection of five official representatives to attend the UN General Assembly and the appointment of a permanent president of the Supreme National Council. Another topic that might be discussed is a voluntary cease-fire by the four factions.

Suwit said the Thai people and the world hope that the meeting will be successful, but whether this will be the case depends on the Cambodians themselves.

[Begin Suwit recording] My view is that the Cambodians are aware that the world is focusing on them and, therefore, they must try to help themselves as much as possible to solve the problem. Thailand, Indonesia, France, the United States, China, the Soviet Union, and other countries have tried to help solve the problem. So, I feel that it is now time to solve the problem, and we expect the meeting to be successful. [end recording]

Refugee Repatriation Planned

BK1609125690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1239 GMT 16 Sep 90

[By Michael Shari]

[Text] Bangkok, Sept 16 (AFP)—Heartened by stepped-up peace efforts in Cambodia and impatient with the refugee problem, Thailand plans to start repatriating more than 300,000 Cambodian refugees by the end of the year, a senior official said Sunday.

Suwit Sutthanukun, head of Thailand's National Security Council, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the entire population of eight U.N.-aided camps on or near the Thai-Cambodian border would be repatriated through transit centers set up at two of the camps, Khao I-dang and Kap Choeng. The phased repatriation would proceed according to guidelines established at a Paris peace conference last year, stipulating that refugees could be sent back only after a comprehensive political settlement ended the nearly 12-year-old war in Cambodia.

The repatriation of refugees on the border, most of whom have never been granted international refugee status, is to be completed over a nine-month period, Mr. Suwit said. "It will be months before we start, but it should be by the end of the year," he added.

International relief officials here said they had not yet been informed that the plans—on the drawing board for at least a year—were to be implemented. Much work remains to build up infrastructure for the transit centers, they said.

Khao I-dang, several kilometers inside Thailand, holds some 17,000 Cambodians who have been rejected for resettlement in Western countries already saturated by Indochinese refugees from Cambodia, South Vietnam and Laos, which fell to communist insurgencies in 1975, the officials said.

Kap Choeng held some 18,000 ethnic Thai Cambodians until they were granted Thai citizenship earlier this year, the officials said. It now functions mainly as an emergency medical facility.

Another 303,000 Cambodians occupy six border camps administered by Cambodia's three resistance factions, who claim the camps as their civilian population base. The largest of these, Site 2, holds 165,000 people, making it the largest concentration of Cambodians outside Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge, militarily the most powerful resistance faction, has also kept "hidden" camps for thousands of people under its strict control in dangerous border areas. But the Marxist group, which ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979, is believed to have moved them back inside Cambodia as the Thai Government shows signs of growing impatience with the refugee problem.

Mr. Suwit said he would meet here Tuesday [18 September] with senior officials of Thailand's Foreign and Interior Ministries and Military Supreme Command to discuss the repatriation plans.

The meeting is to take place a day after faction leaders join for the first meeting here of the newly formed Supreme National Council (SNC), an interim authority set up under a U.N.-brokered peace plan to install a comprehensive settlement to the dragging conflict. The SNC includes leaders of all three resistance factions: the Khmer Rouge and non-communist followers of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Prime Minister Son Sann. It also comprises leaders of the regime Vietnam installed in Phnom Penh in January 1979, after invading Cambodia to oust the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge.

Mr. Suwit said the repatriation process could begin as early as next month if the first SNC meeting is successful.

Subin Returns, Comments on Talks

BK1509154990 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan, who returned last night from a visit to the Philippines and Brunei, granted an interview to journalists at Bangkok International Airport. He said that his trip to the Philippines and Brunei was meant to introduce him to his counterparts as the new Thai foreign minister. He assured them of the Thai Government's policy of cooperation with ASEAN members. He also discussed with the Philippines and Brunei the issue of peace and the UN meeting in New York.

The minister told journalists that the meeting of the four Cambodian leaders at the Cambodian Embassy in Thailand would be another step in the progress toward a settlement in Indochina.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Subin] We are ready to support them in holding such a meeting in Thailand if they wish. However, the Supreme National Council meeting is solely their own affair.

[Unidentified correspondent] What facilities are to be given them during the talks?

[Subin] According to the report I had, the meeting will take place at the Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok. And we are ready to provide them with any facilities they may request from us because it is the Cambodian Embassy in Thailand.

[Question indistinct]

[Subin] The format of the meeting will be decided by the four Cambodian leaders. [end recording]

Chatchai Predicts 'Successful' Meet

BK1709064190 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan told reporters at Government House this morning about the forthcoming meeting of the four Cambodian factions to be held at the Cambodian Embassy in Thailand this afternoon. He said he has been informed that the representatives of all the Cambodian factions were on their way to participate in the meeting. The prime minister said he believed the meeting would be successful.

Officials Speed Assistance to Workers in Jordan

BK1509053890 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Citing Deputy Interior Minister Watthana Atsawahem, Government House Spokesman Suwit Yotmani said yesterday afternoon that about 300 Thai workers remained in an area in Jordan about 70 km from the Iraqi-Jordanian border and about 480 others remained in the refugee center in Amman. Officials concerned have accelerated assistance efforts by sending food to the workers near the Jordanian-Iraqi border and bringing them to a center in Amman for further evacuation to Thailand. Planes will be sent to evacuate those from the refugee center in Amman as soon as possible because food shortages have now become evident.

Answering questions about assistance to Thai workers in Iraq, Suwit said workers there have continued working to fulfill their contracts and that the current situation in Iraq is not a cause for alarm. Officials have been monitoring the situation in order to assist Thai workers immediately as planned if there is a threat to their safety. Suwit said that by law it is the responsibility of the employers to assist their workers or pay the incurred assistance expenses, such as air fare. The Foreign and Interior Ministries have advanced the assistance and expect the employers to reimburse the expenses as required by law.

Sitthi 'Will Not Play Politics Anymore'

BK1409145790 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila gave an interview to reporters at his residence on his decision to resign as a member of the Social Action Party and as a member of parliament [MP] for Bangkok. He said he made the decision himself and had not consulted with anyone.

He said he had already made up his mind the previous night. He said he will not play politics anymore. He will also not run in the coming by-elections and will withdraw from politics for good.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Sitthi] Well, it is my personal reason.

[Reporter] They say you complained about being fed up with politics. Is it true?

[Sitthi] Yes.

[Reporter] Is it because you were fed up with politics?

[Sitthi] Yes, a little bit.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Sitthi] Nothing else, it is just a normal resignation. [end recording]

Asked if some other MP's would also resign, Sitthi said he did not know. He declined any comment on the stability of the government.

Police Kill 'Suspected Muslim Terrorist' in Yala

BK1509015890 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] Yala—A suspected Muslim terrorist, who faces over 10 criminal charges, was killed on Thursday in a clash with police in Yala District of this southern province, police said yesterday.

The body of Mayakoh Duarameh was found after a brief gunfight between some five Muslim separatists and a team of policemen who were patrolling Siyoh village in the district. Police did not suffer any injuries in the shootout.

Police said Mayakoh was wanted for allegedly killing a kamnan [village chief] in the province, and robbing a gold shop in Narathiwat. It added that he was a notorious gunman suspected of having killed more than 30 people.

Vietnam

Nguyen Van Linh Makes 'Secret Visit' to China

BK1709041090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0403 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi, Sept 17 (AFP)—Vietnamese Communist Party leader Nguyen Van Linh has made a secret visit to China to discuss normalising relations between the two countries, diplomatic and Vietnamese sources said here Monday.

Vietnamese officials would neither confirm nor deny the reports that Mr. Linh had gone to China between September 3 and 7.

Diplomatic sources here said the Commmunist Party secretary general was accompanied by Premier Do Muoi and veteran Vietnamese leader Pham Van Dong.

Mr. Linh's visit would mark a major step towards improved bilateral ties which have been soured since Vietnamese troops invaded Cambodia in late 1978, followed by China's punitive invasion of northern Vietnam in early 1979.

Vo Nguyen Giap To Leave for Beijing 18 Sep

OW1709042190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0305 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi, Sept. 17 KYODO—Vietnamese Vice Premier Vo Nguyen Giap will leave Hanoi on Tuesday to attend the opening ceremony of the Asian Games on Saturday in Beijing and to hold talks with Chinese leaders, Vietnamese Government sources said Monday. It will be the first visit to China by a Vietnamese vice premier since the 1979 Sino-Vietnamese war.

The visit by Giap, a senior member of the Vietnamese Communist Party and the Vietnamese Armed Forces, is expected to help rapidly improve bilateral relations between Hanoi and Beijing. Discussions between Giap and Chinese leaders will center on normalization of bilateral relations and Cambodia, the sources said.

China and Vietnam began talks between vice foreign ministers in January 1989 to normalize bilateral relations, with a second round in May of the same year.

Last June, Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh met Chinese ambassador to Hanoi Zhang Dewei for the first time since he took office in December 1986, and stressed the need to normalize bilateral relations.

Xu Dunxin, Chinese assistant foreign minister, visited Hanoi in June for unofficial talks with Vietnamese Government officials.

The agreement by the four warring Cambodian factions to establish the Supreme National Council to end the 12-year civil war has created a favorable environment for both communist countries to normalize relations, the sources said.

Giap is due to arrive at the Chinese southern city of Nanning on Wednesday by land, and fly to Beijing from there. But it is uncertain how long Giap will stay in Beijing and whom he will meet there.

Discusses Normalization of Ties

BK1709063490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0557 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi, Sept 17 (AFP)—Vietnam's Communist Party chief Nguyen Van Linh secretly visited China early this month to discuss normalizing bilateral ties, Vietnamese and diplomatic sources said here Monday. Vietnamese officials neither confirmed nor denied reports of the visit, which is said to have taken place September 3-7. The diplomatic sources said Mr. Linh was accompanied by Prime Minister Do Muoi and former Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, now retired from public life.

Deputy Prime Minister Vo Nguyen Giap, who is to visit Beijing this week at the invitation of the organizing committee of the Asian Games, said Monday that relations "will soon be normalised because there is a long tradition of friendship between our two countries." Both sides wanted to see ties normalised, Mr. Giap said, adding: "The Vietnamese people are grateful for the aid and support given by the Chinese Communist Party, government and people" during Vietnam's wars against the French and Americans.

Mr. Linh's visit was an important step toward normalizing Sino-Vietnamese ties, soured since China launched a punitive invasion into northern Vietnam in February 1979 after Vietnamese troops toppled the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, diplomats said.

Vietnamese athletes taking part in the games crossed the Chinese border Sunday through friendship gate—the first time the border has been opened to an official Vietnamese group in nearly 12 years.

Observers here said the visits to China by Vietnamese leaders showed that the pace of normalization was being stepped up with normal ties possible in the near future. "The (improved) prospects for peace in Cambodia, which China cites as a major obstacle to normalistaion, is also part of this," said one diplomat here.

Cambodia's four warring factions last week approved a peace plan calling for the formation of a Supreme National Council (SNC) and delegating broad administrative powers to the United Nations until elections can be held. The SNC, comprising six representatives of the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh Government and two each of the three resistance factions, will represent Cambodia's sovereignty up to general elections. The plan, drafted by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, also calls for the U.N. to impose a cease-fire and disarm the factions.

Cambodia's resistance coalition groups the Marxist Khmer Rouge with non-communist followers of former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Prime Minister Son Sann.

Territorial disputes between Hanoi and Beijing—particularly over the Paracel and Spratly island chains in the South China Sea—are not as important as their differences over Cambodia, one diplomat said, adding that they be tackled after normalization.

Vietnamese Team Crosses PRC Border

BK1709081990 Hanoi VNA in English 0725 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 17—The Vietnamese sport team for the 11th Asiad in Beijing crossed the Vietnam-China border in the northern province of Lang Son on

Sunday, being farewelled by a large number of Vietnamese officials and journalists, and foreign reporters.

Leaving the country together with the team was Tran Hoan, minister of culture, information, sports and tourism, official invitee to the games, who were welcomed on the other side of the 'Huu Nghi' (friendship) border gate by a representative of the Chinese Olympic Committee.

Vo Nguyen Giap Departs for Beijing

BK1709103090 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] General Vo Nguyen Giap, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, left Hanoi on Monday [17 September] for Beijing to attend Asiad '90 as honorary guest of Asiad and distinguished guest of the Chinese Government.

Present at the seeing-off ceremony in Hanoi were Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Nguyen Dy Nien, deputy foreign minister; Le Thanh Cong, deputy minister of culture, information, sports, and tourism.

The Chinese ambassador in Hanoi was also on hand.

Envoy to Thailand 'Optimistic' on SNC Meeting

BK1709013590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] Vietnam hopes Cambodia will be able to settle its problems through the Supreme National Council [SNC] which holds its first meeting in Bangkok today, Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung said yesterday.

"I cannot see why the SNC can't agree on, among other things, the Cambodian delegation to the United Nations. They have a free hand to do so now, after the very important result of the Jakarta meeting," Ambassador Trung said when asked to comment on prospects for the first meeting of the 12-member council.

The ambassador said he was optimistic about today's meeting, but said negotiations that address too many issues at once could be "very complicated."

Vietnam, he said, is very happy about the outcome of the Jakarta meeting, and efforts should now centre on implementing the agreement.

The Jakarta agreement, the SNC and the framework for peace in Cambodia drawn up by the five permanent members of the United nations Security Council are all contributing towards a Cambodian settlement, Ambassador Trung said.

Efforts To Solve MIA, Amerasian Issues C..ed

BK1409122390 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] So far Vietnam and the United States have carried out 11 joint searches for Americans missing in the U.S. war in Vietnam. Especially in the latest joint search carried out from August 6 to 31, the U.S. highly appreciated the activities undertaken by the Vietnamese and confirmed the good result of this search.

Under the agreement of September 13, Vietnam returned to the U.S. Army 20 sets of remains of Americans which were identified during the searching.

Meanwhile, the issue on the volunteer repatriation of people who left the country illegally was properly solved. According to a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, Vietnam has made great efforts in coordinating with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] and concerned countries to carry out a joint program which has produced good initial results, that is, to reduce the number of refugees, receive and help stabilize the life of 4,500 [as heard] people who returned voluntarily, mostly from Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

In the future, Vietnam will continue efforts in cooperation with the High Commissioner for Refugees and concerned countries to solve the refugee issue.

Over the past year, Vietnam actively carried out the orderly departure of people who wanted to settle in other countries. Vietnam has cooperated with UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration to organize people who wanted to leave the country to settle in 30 countries including the United States, Canada, and Australia. In the first seven months of this year, 22,700 people were allowed to leave Vietnam for other countries.

Besides carrying out this issue, Vietnam also cooperated with the United States in the settlement in the U.S. the Amerasian children and people who have just been released from reeducation camps and their relatives. By August 24, 1990, Vietnam has handed to the U.S. side seven lists totaling 31,400 people. On the Amerasian children and relatives alone, Vietnam has handed to the U.S. side 20 lists consisting of 66,000 people. In the early days of August, Vietnamese and U.S. specialists held a meeting in Bangkok to review a program of resettlement in the U.S. of Amerasian children and those who were released from reeducation camps. At the meeting, both Vietnam and the U.S. acknowledged the progress which has been made and agreed upon several measures to solve quickly the abovesaid issue.

Fact shows that Vietnam has actively solved the issue of MIA, the volunteer repatriation of people who illegally left the country, and those who wanted to settle in other countries in the spirit of humanism and deep sympathy.

Council of Ministers Sends Special Envoy to Iraq

BK1609114590 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Minister Tran Dinh Hoan, special envoy of Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi, left Hanoi on Saturday [15 September] for Iraq.

The purpose of his trip is to consider the situation and discuss with the government and offices concerned in Iraq on problems relating to Vietnamese who are working in Iraq.

VNA Director General Dao Tung Dies 15 Sep

BK1509161890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] The VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY, the Office of the National Assembly and Council of State, the Party Central Committee Ideology Department, the Vietnam Journalists Association, and the bereaved family announce with deep sorrow that:

Comrade Dao Tung, whose real name is Do Trung Thanh, director general and concurrently editor-in-chief of the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY, born on 25 October 1925 in Bac Giang City, Ha Bac Province; member of the Communist Party of Vietnam; deputy of the Eighth National Assembly; vice chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee; member of Vietnam UNESCO Committee; vice chairman of the Vietnam-Cambodia Friendship Association; former member of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee; vice president and concurrently secretary general of the Vietnam Journalists Association; vice president of the International Organization of Journalists; and recipient of the Independence Order, third class; the Resistance Order, second class; the Anti-U.S. Resistance for National Salvation Order, first class; the Medal for the Cause of the Vietnamese Press, and the Emblem of 40 years of Party Membership—passed away at the age of 65 at 0810 on 15 September at the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Hospital after a period of illness, despite the dedicated care and treatment by various professors and doctors.

His remains are laying at rest at the Vietnam News Agency's conference hall, No. 5 Ly Thuong Kiet Street, Hanoi. A memorial service will be held at 0830 and the funeral service at 1300 on 18 September. The burial will be at the Bac Giang city cemetery on the same day.

Ho Chi Minh Letters to U.S. Leaders Publicized

BK1509091790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] The Vietnam Social Science Institute recently made public a valuable document, never before published, on the diplomatic activities of President Ho Chi Minh following the 12 September 1945 declaration of independence. It contains copies of four letters written in English by President Ho Chi Minh to U.S. leaders in late 1945 and early 1946.

In the first letter, to President Truman and dated 17 October 1945, President Ho expressed the Vietnamese people's welcome for the founding of the UN Consultation Committee on the Far East issue. He pointed out that Vietnam, instead of France, should have been allowed to represent itself at this committee.

The second letter, sent to U.S. Secretary of State Dulles, President Ho denounced renewed French aggression against the Nam Bo region. He called on the United Nations to intervene to ensure the observance of those provisions outlined in the Atlantic and San Francisco Charters on the right of national self-determination.

In the third letter, to Mr. Dulles and dated 1 January 1945, President Ho offered his popular diplomatic initiatives aimed at opening up relations for cooperation between the Vietnamese and U.S. peoples, first of all, in the cultural and educational domains, despite the fact that the two countries had not established official relations.

In the fourth letter, to U.S. President Truman, dated 16 February 1946, he proposed that Vietnam could cooperate fully with the United States based on full U.S. recognition of Vietnam's independence.

Australia

Evans Discusses Joining Air Blockade of Iraq

BK1709103490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1016 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Canberra, Sept 17 (AFP)—Australia could join an air blockade of Iraq if the existing naval blockade is extended, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Monday. An air blockade is a distant consideration, he said, but there had been calls to extend the current blockade from several quarters, including Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

"We will continue to watch very closely," Mr. Evans added. "Australia would support any international action to maintain (the blockade)."

Australia has two frigates and a supply ship assisting the multinational naval blockade of Iraq.

"It should be appreciated that the potential for Iraq to try and circumvent the blockade by air is very limited," Mr. Evans told the parliament. "It would require the co-operation of Iraq's neighbours—(but) the international community would certainly react very quickly."

Evans Pressures Hun Sen To Accept Sihanouk

BK1409084090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0821 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi, Sept 14 (AFP)—Australia is pressuring the Phnom Penh government to accept resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk as the chairman of an interim Cambodian ruling council, diplomats here said Friday. Foreign Minister Gareth Evans also proposed that Cambodian Premier Hun Sen become vice-chairman of the just created Supreme National Council (SNC), which he said would allow it to take over Cambodia's resistance-held U.N. seat.

(In Bangkok, the 68-year-old prince said in a statement that he has decided to preside over the SNC "once all Cambodian parties, in particular the party of Mr. Hun Sen, accept him." The prince's faction, the statement continued, "solemnly appeal to Mr. Hun Sen's party" to join the resistance in asking the prince to become chairman.)

A U.N. peace plan identifies Prince Sihanouk, still Cambodia's most internationally respected leader, as the best possible choice to lead the SNC. If Prince Sihanouk was to become the 13th member of the SNC, it would give the resistance a one-seat majority in the council, created Monday in Jakarta by the four warring Cambodian factions.

But Mr. Evans reassured Mr. Hun Sen in a letter Thursday that such a move would have little impact since the SNC is run by consensus, the diplomats said. "Such an arrangement would contribute greatly to an atmosphere of mutual confidence and reconciliation among the Cambodian parties ... Needed (for) a comprehensive solution," he said in the letter. "This arrangement would involve no practical disadvantage to the State of Cambodia because it is already agreed that all decisions of the SNC will be by consensus," the foreign minister added.

The 12-member SNC is now responsible for the sovereignty of Cambodia and is split evenly between representatives of the Phnom Penh government and those of the tripartite resistance. Its creation was seen as the first step towards achieving peace in the nearly 12-year-old Cambodian civil war.

The SNC members have still to decide on the election of Prince Sihanouk, the former Cambodian monarch, as chairman of the council.

(Intensive consultations were continuing Friday in Bangkok on the SNC issue among officials of the rival Cambodian groups as well as Thai and Vietnamese officials, sources familiar with the discussions said. Sok An, a deputy foreign minister of the Phnom Penh government, had meetings with Thai officials and representatives from the non-communist resistance factions, they said. Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quan Co also met in Bangkok with Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, the Thai permanent secretary for foreign affairs, to discuss Cambodia, the sources said.)

A peace plan drawn up by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and accepted by the Cambodian factions calls for a large U.N. contingent to administer the country until free elections can be held. The United Nations would also be in charge of supervising a cease-fire and disarming the warring parties.

The resistance, which is dominated by the militarily powerful Khmer Rouge and also includes followers of Prince Sihanouk and former Premier Son Sann, has been fighting Phnom Penh government since it was installed by Hanoi in 1979.

Mr. Hun Sen proposed that the first meeting of the SNC take place in Bangkok next Monday, on the eve of the opening of the U.N. General Assembly.